

# Entre NOUS



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# 2008 Senior Survey

**If you could change Samford's current motto (For God, For learning, Forever) to reflect your personal experience, what would it be?**

**What's the worst trend you have seen come through Samford?**

**What is the one thing about your college years that you did/saw that you would rather die than tell your parents?**

**What was the funniest experience you've had in class?**

**What do you think will run through your mind when you cross the stage at graduation?**

**What organization/activity do you wish you had taken part in?**

**What has been your most memorable experience with campus safety?**

**Where's the best place to take a date?**

**What's your favorite restaurant in Birmingham?**

- Have fun, study, it'll seem like forever!
- For graphic design, for suffering, forever!
- Go big or go home!

- Ninja pants
- Monogrammed purses
- Frisbee throwing

- That I did the walk of shame.
- I don't want to die, so nothing.
- That all that money wasn't for books.

- Bribing teachers with cake to move tests back.
- When a girl passed out during her speech in CA freshman year.
- Yelling out nicknames for private parts in Human Sexuality.

- A lovely lady.
- Wow! This went by really fast!
- I can't believe it's over! Peace out!

- SGA
- Step Sing
- Engage

- The time I got down on my knees and begged them not to write me a ticket when I caught them at my car.
- Being chased through Seibert at 2 a.m. while playing hide-and-seek. They never caught me.
- Probably cherishing the thoughtful text messages that Director of Campus Safety Bobby Breed sends, warning that my life is in danger.

- Botanical Gardens
- The Caf
- To the top of Vulcan

- Jim N Nicks
- Cocina Superior
- Surin West

# Entre Nous

Between  
Us 2008

**Editor:** Jessica Casto

**Art Director:** Austin Richardson

**Photography Editor:** Becky Ellenberger

**Advisors:** Sean Flynt, Donovan Harris, Caroline Summers

**Section Editors:** Amy Grace Roberson, Allyson Dewell, Ashlyn Stallings,  
Val Kikkert, Rachel Bennett

**Editorial Contributors:** Haley Aaron, Libby Allen, Britney Almaguer, Carol Anne Autry, Caroline Bell, Rachel Bennett, Matt Campbell, Jessica Casto, Megan Christians, Jessica Cunningham, Allyson Dewell, Shannon Dille, Callan Donoho, Ryan England, Calvin Fields, Jonathan Flowers, Sarah Gardner, Mary Nell Hall, Hayden Hamrick, Ben Hankins, Emily Hart, Jordan Jarvis, Jackie Jaszczyk, Michelle Kelly, Val Kikkert, Rachel Long, Heather Mackey, Melissa McBride, Kaitlin McCulley, Anna Pollock, Caroline Poole, Ryan Posniak, Sallianne Prothro, Amy Grace Robertson, Matt Robertson, Sloan Schmitke, Destiny Soria, Ashlyn Stallings, Matt Stamp, Cassaundra Stinson, Kylie Swyden, Brittany Todd, Lindsey Vaughn, Kelli Winn and Ruth Woodall

**Photo Contributors:** Sarah Andrews, Allyson Dewel, Becky Ellenberger, Terra Garmin, Jordan Jarvis, Jon Londeen, Valerie Macon, Megan Marr, Bob Miller, Kyle Myketa, Jessica Sansom, Austin Richardson, Amy Grace Robertson, Stephen Williams, and Killi Winn

**Design Contributors:** Austin Richardson and Laura Armstrong

**Special Thanks:** Andrew Westmoreland, Michael Morgan, Philip Poole, Jay Elmore, *The Samford Crimson* and Zap Photography.

The staff of Entre Nous seeks to provide documentation of a year in the life of the Samford Community. To us this means more than recounting events. We seek to capture the impressions the year left on students, faculty, staff and administration by moving beyond the events themselves to the way they affected and shaped us.

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Jessica Casto  
Editor



Austin Richardson  
Art Director



Becky Ellenberger  
Photo Editor



Amy Grace Robertson  
Aspire Section Editor



Allyson Dewell  
Reveal Section Editor



Ashlyn Stallings  
Pledge Section Editor



Val Kikkert  
Compete Section Editor



Rachel Bennet  
Connect Section Editor

# Contributors



Haley Aaron

Britney Almaguer

Kelli Winn



Jessica Cunningham

Shannon Dille

Megan Christians



Callan Donoho

Sallianne Prothro

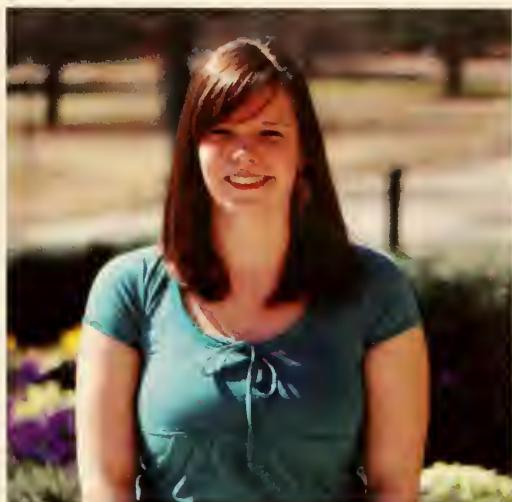
Sloan Schmidtke



Matt Stamp



Brittany Todd



Lindsey Vaughn

## Not Pictured

**Writers:** Libby Allen, Caroline Bell, Matt Campbell, Ryan England, Calvin Fields, Jonathan Flowers, Sarah Gardner, Mary Nell Hall, Ben Hankins, Emily Hart, Jordan Jarvis, Jackie Jaszc, Michelle Kelly, Rachel Long, Heather Mackey, Melissa McBride, Kaitlin McCulley, Anna Pollock, Caroline Poole, Ryan Posniak, Matt Robertson, Destiny Soria, Cassaundra Stinson, Kylie Swyden, and Ruth Woodall

**Photographers:** Sarah Andrews, Allyson Dewel, Becky Ellenberger, Terra Garmin, Jordan Jarvis, Jon Londeen, Valerie Macon, Megan Marr, Bob Miller, Kyle Myketa, Jessica Sansom, Austin Richardson, Amy Grace Robertson, Stephen Williams, and Killi Winn

**Designer:** Laura Armstrong

# The Editors

Entre Nous: "Between us, For us, Forever."

That's what I'd change the motto to if there actually were a motto for Samford's student yearbook. I would bet that most of you didn't even know we had a student yearbook (but we don't bet at Samford, so I'll just hope that you did). If you've sat in the nice, new, leather couches in the food court, you've probably seen the last two years' hardbacks sitting on the coffee table. And hopefully, you've taken a minute or two to peruse through the memories. That's really why we put this thing together. So that years later, when you happen upon your old, dusty college yearbook, you'll take a glance at it and begin to remember what it was like to be a Samford college student back in the day.

My hope is that each of you appear somewhere among these 248 pages. From freshmen to seniors through athletes to Zeta's, we tried to cover all the happenings of the 2007-08 school year. Whether it be a Step Sing photo or an article on politics, our goal was to capture students' stories. The real life day-to-day instances like standing in line at the caf, passing a friend on the sidewalk or the smell of your dorm room are some of the things you'll remember most. Hopefully, everything else you'll find in these pages. So sit back, relax and enjoy the ride down memory lane, because these times in the bubble (whether good or bad) are between us, for us, forever.

Enjoy!

Jessica Casto





## The things I did this year are as follows:

- Designing all but four pages of what you're holding
- Illustrating all throughout the book
- Photography for a good number of the pages you're about to look at.

I had my hand in every single page you're about to look through...

Please Enjoy

Austin Richardson

A s p i r e



# Connecting to a New Home

By Heather Mackey

Photos: Becky Ellenberger

Spread: Austin Richardson

The Connections program is designed to welcome the freshman class to Samford. It is all about allowing the new class to become familiar with the university through different events that have become a part of Samford's traditions. The first week at Samford for freshmen includes Playfair, Dinner on the Dirt, learning the lingo and making relationships with other freshmen that will last the rest of their lives.

As the largest freshman class in Samford history pulled onto campus August 22, 2007, around 100 eager Connection leaders swarmed their cars to unload their belongings and answer general questions. And then, the eventful week began as the students joined a Connections group and started their journey here at Samford.

Keighlee McCaslin, a freshman education major, said her favorite part of Connections was Playfair. "I loved Playfair. I met a lot of people, and I still talk to them. It was like a funny, awkward party...I loved it," said McCaslin.

Playfair, a yearly tradition on Samford's campus, is led by Carol Ann Freid, fully suited in spandex and accompanied by a crazy bird whistle. Playfair forces people to participate in outdoor activities and get-to-know-you-games that reach out of students' comfort zones to help them meet other people in a different manner.

Despite the crazy activities, McCaslin said she got quite a bit out of the program. "Connections really helped me get to know the school and where my classes were. After Connec-



tions, I knew I wouldn't get lost which was my biggest fear," said McCaslin. "Connections also helped explain a lot of the rules and how Samford works."

This year, there were six orientation leaders, 80 Connections leaders and 12 senior Connections leaders. The senior Connections leader position was a new role that created a liaison between the orientation leaders and the Connections leaders. Senior Connections leaders were seniors who had served for the past two years in the program.

Connections leaders play an integral part in welcoming the new freshmen to campus and making sure they understand what campus life is about and how to navigate their years here. Senior business major, Ross Thaxton, said, "My favorite part about being a Connections leader was that I got to make an impact on freshman students and hang out with them one on one."

Thaxton also said, "I enjoyed watching the freshmen open up during times like Playfair and the hoedown we had this year, because it lets them act more like themselves." Essentially, that's the whole point of Connections: to get freshmen to feel comfortable enough to be themselves and to start connecting with their future best friends.





# Welcome Back

Welcome Back week was officially kicked off with the last car unpacked, the final picture hung and a quick goodbye to the parents. Starting on August 24, students rushed on to Samford's campus to start the 2007-2008 school year. The events of Welcome Back started in hopes for a promising year with a new group of seniors to soak in their last year, and a new group of freshmen to start their journey at Samford.

The Student Activities Council worked hard all summer to have a week full of festivities, the first being the annual Dinner on the Dirt. While Dinner on the Dirt usually takes place on the Quad, dark skies overhead caused students to meet and greet in the caf.

"This was my last Dinner on the Dirt, so I was a little disappointed it was inside. It was harder to mingle and say hello to friends because it was so crowded in there," said senior psychology major Jillian Payne.

But that was only a minor setback, and the Welcome Back activities moved on as Monday rolled around. After a hectic day of class, students were able to enjoy "Hey Days" and a dance at Sloss Furnace.

"Hey Days was just kind of like 'Hey, what's up? How you doing?' It didn't really work out like we wanted to because people were confused on what it was, but you got a free cup and soft drinks," said senior physical education major and member of SAC Jane Deeter.

The week ended with a Saturday trip to the local theme park Alabama Adventure. "We had a wonderful turnout for Alabama Adventure. There was such hype about it last year that we decided to do it again, and I am glad we did," Deeter said.

"Going to Alabama Adventure was my favorite party of Welcome Back," junior sports medicine major Natalie Mayor said. "I got to ride roller coasters with my friends, the perfect end to summer."

Welcome Back week has grown to be a student favorite; in fact, many can't wait until next year. "Welcome Back definitely helps with the transition from summer into school," said junior graphic art major Jessica Snow. "We go to class in the morning and have fun activities at night. SAC did a great job this year."

*By Megan Christians*

*Photos: Becky Ellenberger*

*Spread: Austin Richardson*







# Close to Home

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By Caroline Bell

Photos: Becky Ellenberger and Austin Richardson

Spread: Austin Richardson

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Living on campus can be quick and convenient when it comes to getting around campus. Living on campus can also be a great way to stay connected to people on campus and events on campus. There are many dorms on campus that house the new students and the old.

When the school year begins, new students arrive on Samford's campus. These students, the freshmen, live in Lena Vail Davis and Mamie Mell Smith. Vail and Smith are located in Central Campus and allow the new students to be in the center of the campus life.

The freshmen girl's dorm, Vail holds most of the freshmen girls. Though the rooms are small and the bathrooms communal, some people feel that this living situation is a sacrifice that allows for growth and unity.

"I remember living in Vail. At times, I hated how small the rooms were and how I didn't have my own bathroom, but really, I loved getting to know everyone on my hall. You just bond when you're with that many people who are experiencing such a new thing," said senior interior design major Allie Duncan of her experience in Vail.

Freshmen boys are also offered the bonding opportunity by living in the freshmen boy's dorm, Smith. Smith offers suite style dorms and the same great bonding experience as Vail.

Upper classmen at Samford have two choices for housing. They can either live in West Campus or in Beeson Woods. Samford offers Sorority and Fraternity dorm housing in West Campus. Members of designated Greek organizations are offered the opportunity to live in a house that is dorm style with members of their own organization.

"It is great living with people that are in your same organization; it just offers a deeper way to bond," said sophomore Kaylee Hayworth. "It is fun just to be in a dorm, and it is great being in a Greek organization. Living in Greek housing combines the both."

Samford also offers housing for upper classmen in Beeson Woods. These dorms are more spacious and offer a suite style room. Each suite is set up with a common room and kitchenette.

"I loved living in Beeson. It was almost like living in an apartment except without all the maintenance. I still had my roommate, but there was so much more room to live and move. Beeson is great," said senior Rachel Richardson of her experience in Beeson Woods.

Samford's campus is small and intimate, and the same feel was given with the design of housing. Samford takes great care in ensuring that each student has a comfortable and fun place to live. Whether it is by hall activities in Vail and Smith, Greek bonding in West Campus, or the "suite" life in Beeson Woods, there is a housing arrangement to match every student's desired dorm life.

E



# Places Students Hang

By Caroline Bell

Photos: and Spread: Austin Richardson

Samford offers students the invitation to get to know the city around them, Birmingham. This city is exciting and different, and it offers many fun and exciting ways to hangout with friends whether it be at a fun concert, bar or restaurant, Birmingham has something for everyone.

Sophomore Kaylee Hayworth commented on her favorite place in Birmingham. "I love Rojo. It is so different. I love the atmosphere, and they have such a variety of food."

Rojo, centered off of Highland Avenue, offers an eclectic atmosphere as well as a diverse menu. Dishes range from hamburgers to quesadillas. "It's a great place to go with friends before a party or event because you can rent out their party room and stuff as many people as you want in there," Hayworth said.

Rojo offers a fun atmosphere for students of all ages looking for food and entertainment, but for students 21 and up, there are some great places around town that attract many Samford students.

"Twist and Shout is really fun; It's just real laid back. You can buy a drink and just listen to the piano," senior Bethany Harrison said of this new bar located in Five Points. Twist and Shout is a piano bar, but not just any old piano bar; "The bar tender plays songs by Britney Spears and Madonna. It's quite entertaining," Harrison said.

Even if you're not 21 and in the mood to hear some good tunes, WorkPlay Theatre is a venue offering concerts open to all ages. "I always look on WorkPlay's website to see what's coming up. Sometimes they will have really low key artists, or a big name performer," senior Rachel Richardson said.

WorkPlay offers a concert setting where friends can gather to hear their favorite bands play, or perhaps, try out a new sound. "I just saw Hanson play there; it was amazing! I am so glad we have this venue here," Richardson said.

These are just a few of the cool places Birmingham offers Samford students, there is so much more to see and do in this city. From art museums to Broadway plays at the BJCC, Birmingham offers something for everyone. So get out there and find it!





# Samford's 50th Homecoming in Homewood



By Megan Christians

Photos and Spread: Austin Richardson

Whether you are a current student, prospective student or alumnus, homecoming has something to entertain everyone, and this year was no exception.

The year 2007 marked the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Samford's Homewood campus and the opening of the new Pete Hanna Center. Alumna Kimberly Roads and Karen Fairchild from the country musicgroup Little Big Town performed in the Hanna Center Saturday night.

"The concert was awesome," junior cheerleader Brittany Tedford said. "It was really cool to watch Little Big Town and think 'I went to the same college as them.'"

The official kick-off to the festivities came Friday night with the annual bonfire.

"We were very pleased with the bonfire turnout," senior education major and Homecoming Chair Niki Champan said. "The parking lot was completely packed; just what we wanted to see."

Saturday's events included a hot air balloon ride, tailgating on the quad and a parade.

"The parade was my favorite part," sophomore education major Carter Chambliss said.

"I was in charge of Alpha Omicron Pi's float this year. We worked really hard as I am sure everyone else did. I think all the floats looked great and the crowd loved it."

Of course, no homecoming is complete without a Homecoming Court. Seniors Ellen Donze and Jason Morales were crowned king and queen during halftime of the football game. Ten other students were voted as class representatives.

"It was a complete surprise to be nominated in the first place, and an even bigger shock to be on the court," sophomore nursing major Elle Martin said. "It really was such an honor, and a true privilege to be able to represent my class during Homecoming. The court had a lot of fun together and it was wonderful participating in all of the homecoming events."

Although the football game did not turn out like Bulldog fans would have liked, with a loss to Austin Peay, this year's Homecoming will certainly go down as one for the history books.







# Homecoming Court

By Megan Christians

Photos: Becky Ellenberger

Spread: Austin Richardson

The band finished playing and the stands got quiet as the Homecoming court was presented on the 50 yard line during halftime of the Homecoming football game.

After a few seconds of anticipation, senior journalism/mass communications major Jason Morales and senior religion major Ellen Donze were crowned king and queen.

"I was so honored to be chosen as Homecoming queen," Donze said. "It was a complete surprise."

Members of the court are chosen by their peers; then the whole campus is open to vote on who they want to represent each class.

"It was a complete surprise to be nominated the first time, and an even

bigger shock to be on court," sophomore nursing major Elle Martin said. "It really was such an honor, and a true privilege to be able to represent my class during Homecoming."

Each class representative participates in the annual homecoming parade and is individually presented during the football game.

"The court had a lot of fun together, and it was wonderful participating in all of the homecoming events," Martin said.

"I enjoyed each member of the court," senior Homecoming chair Niki Chapman said. "They each performed their duties nicely, looked great and had a good time being out there."

## Members of the Court:

**Seniors:** Jason Morales (King) and Christina Cester, Cam Rogers and Ellen Donze (Queen), Nate Stenstrom and Mary Catherine Stone.

**Juniors:** Rocky Ailing and Susan MacFarland

**Sophomores:** Alex Hugenard and Elle Martin

**Freshmen:** Hugh Smith and Jenna Tanner





# Miss Samford 2008

By Michelle Kelly

Photos: Becky Ellenberger

Spread: Austin Richardson

On November 9, 2007, after an evening full of glitz, glamour and excitement, sophomore Amanda Tapley was named Miss Samford 2008.

Tapley, a piano performance and pre-medicine major from Birmingham, competed against eight other women in the scholarship pageant. Tapley also won the talent award for her piano performance of the third movement from Tschaikowsky's Concerto No. 1 in B-flat Minor. Her talent on the piano went hand-in-hand with her pageant platform, "Music for a Cure." Part of her duties as a representative of Samford University will include competing in the Miss Alabama pageant in June.

"It is such an honor to represent this wonderful university as Miss Samford University," said Tapley. "This opportunity has opened so many doors for me. The experience I gain will further prepare me for my future."

Tapley is also looking forward to the next year and serving through her platform. "I will be speaking and performing at schools and churches as well as promoting my platform, a fundraiser for St. Jude Children's Research Hospital. I am so grateful for this incredible experience and will represent Samford University to the very best of my ability," said Tapley.

Katie Robertson, a senior from Atlanta, GA, was first runner-up, and Susan Hamm, a freshman from Thorsby, AL, was named second runner-up. Other contestants were freshmen

Jenna Tanner and Morgan Hall; sophomore Lydia Hignite; and juniors Amber Duke and Elizabeth Fuller. All contestants were scored on Lifestyle and Fitness, Talent, Evening Wear and On-Stage Question by a panel of five judges.

The theme of the night was Timeless, and entertainment was provided by not only the contestants, but their escorts as well. Miss Samford 2007 Jessica Terry performed a piano selection and was given the opportunity to say her farewell before crowning Tapley. Realizing that she had no bobby pins after Tapley's name was called as the winner, the resourceful Terry used bobby pins from her own head to crown the new Miss Samford.

The Miss Samford program is a long standing tradition of excellence, with several of the winners going on to win Miss Alabama and even Miss America. One such Miss Samford was Miss Alabama 2000, Jana Sanderson McEachern, who emceed this year along with Samford senior Caudill Miller. The pageant's directors were Ashley Oliver, a sophomore elementary education major, and Morgan Welty, a sophomore nursing major.

Megan Christians, a junior journalism/mass communications major, enjoyed this year's pageant just as much as she has the past two years. "I thought that all the girls did a wonderful job and were very qualified. Amanda was especially great, and I am sure she will do a great job as Miss Samford."



# Beeson Ball

By Kelli Winn

Photos: Courtesy of Beeson Ball Attendees

Spread: Austin Richardson

"I'll be seeing you" was the theme for this year's Beeson Ball. Residents of Beeson Woods look forward to this event every year, put on their best dancing shoes and get all dolled up for a night of glitz and glamour.

Residence Life Educator for Beeson, Kacey Cole estimated that 278 guests attended the Beeson Ball this year. The event was sponsored by Beeson Woods Residence Life who began planning early in August to put together the special evening. The entire RA staff of Beeson began brainstorming and discussing the plans during their first week of training. The process was overseen by Cole and the senior staff: Jacob Simmons, Ashlie Chaniott and James Blackburn. Cole says that she has complete trust in her staff's event-organizing skills. "They do such a great job with planning that my job as their supervisor is not stressful, and I am able to go and enjoy the event as much as they are."

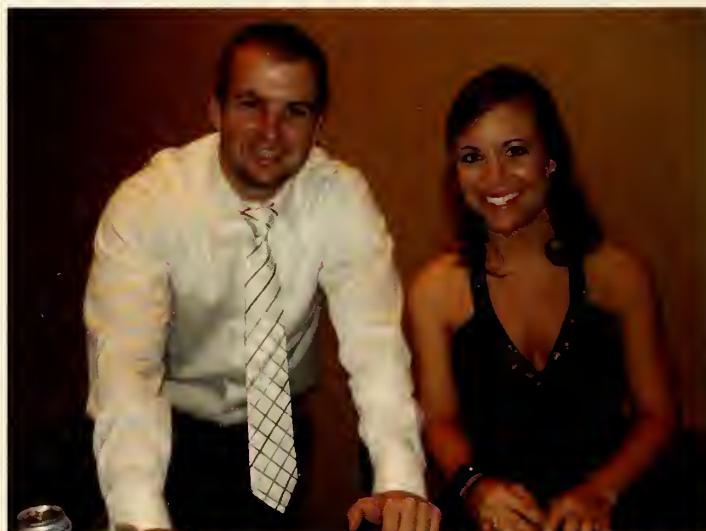
This was the 4<sup>th</sup> annual Beeson Ball. It originally began in 2004 and was held downtown at the Harbert Center for the first two years. They began having the event at Vulcan Park after Cole became RLE for Beeson, which was where it was held this year. Many students, like sophomore Emily Ray, liked having the ball at Vulcan. "It's a unique place and it has so much history," said Ray. "Vulcan is a symbol of Birmingham and it's neat for Samford students to be able to connect with the city in that way."

It's not just the history that's attractive about Vulcan, it's the view. The park provides a stunning lookout over downtown, which makes for a romantic night. "The city lights are really pretty," Ray said. "It's kind of romantic and it's fun to get pictures made."

While some preferred the view of the city outside, others got a chance to show off their dancing skills inside. What ball would be complete without music? Guests danced to tunes fresh from the DJ and took pictures in front of a prom-reminiscent background set up by Jacob Simmons, Beeson Woods Resident Manager.

"The entirety of Beeson Ball was great, but one of my favorite parts was definitely watching people take pictures, both cute and funny, in front of the photo area," Cole said. "Ultimately though, the best part was the fact that we put together a great event that people enjoyed and also knowing that my staff did an amazing job."

This year's Beeson Ball was definitely a success. Undoubtedly, we'll be seeing this tradition continue for many years to come.





# Deck the Way and Light the Tree

By Amy Grace Robertson

Photos: Jordan Jarvis and Austin Richardson

Spread: Austin Richardson



Each year, many events take place on Samford's campus to celebrate Christmas. One of the richest traditions is Lighting of the Way, which takes place on Centennial Way. Every year when the Christmas season approaches, the paths of the quad throughout the entire campus are lined with white bags that each holds a candle. On the evening of Lighting of the Way, all the candles are illuminated and the campus is transformed into a magical space filled with prayers and caroling in anticipation for the moment when the big Christmas tree is lit.

The Student Government Association hosts the event every year as a welcome party for the Christmas season. "I love Lighting of the Way because it is a great way for me to get into the Christmas spirit," said junior nursing major Amanda Duckworth. "Sometimes I think we all just get caught up in upcoming exams, getting back home and saying goodbye to friends for the break that we forget the beauty of the holiday that is approaching. Lighting of the Way helps me remember my real focus should always be on Christ."

The University Ministries choir and Dr. Westmoreland carry the evening through singing and the reading of the Bible story of the birth of Christ. By the end of the story, the Christmas tree is lit and spectators view the majesty of the bright lights that surround them and the campus as they reflect on the true reason for their celebration of the season.

After the lighting of the tree, everyone moves to A. H. Reid Chapel for another celebration called Hanging of the Green. This particular part of the evening has been a part of the Samford tradition for nearly 30 years.

University Chorale opens the ceremony that honors 12 seniors who have been nominated for the event by faculty, staff and campus organizations. They are meant to represent Jesus' 12 disciples. These seniors are picked for their outstanding contributions to Samford through service, leadership and Christian discipleship.

Each part of Hanging of the Green combines to tell a piece of the Christmas story. The ceremony is divided into six parts: The Advent Wreath, The Wreaths and Garlands, The Holly and Ivy, The Candles, The Crimson Tree and The Light. As the ceremony concludes, each of the 12 honorees passes the light from the Hope candle to the crowd to symbolize the need to pass on the hope of Christ from our lives to others.

Melanie Webber, a sophomore nutrition major, said, "Lighting of the Way and Hanging of the Green are my favorite Samford traditions because they convey the Christmas story in such unique ways that make you really appreciate the season and the hope behind the story of Christ coming to save us all."



# Step Sing 2008

by Michelle Kelly

Photos: Becky Ellenberger, Stephen Williams and Bob Miller

Spread Austin Richardson



After months of planning, weeks of practicing, thousands of tickets sold and 50 dancing disciples, Samford's Step Sing 2008 ended with the coveted Sweepstakes trophy being awarded to the brothers of Sigma Chi.

Held in the Leslie S. Wright Center on February 14, 15 and 16, Step Sing was completely student planned and produced right down to the sound and lighting. Co-directors Peggy Morris and Lee Sullivan led this year's Step Sing committee. Planning for the show started in November and was completely operated without a Samford budget.

"Since we get no money from Samford, all the money we make goes towards expenses for the show. We just hope to break even at the end," said Morris, a senior studying sociology and family studies. This year's show made a lot of money due to the fact that all three performances were completely sold out, a first in Step Sing history according to Morris.

Sigma Chi took home the awards for the judges' and participants' choice for Best Music in addition to the biggest award of the night with their show "The Original Fraternity," complete with rap music, biblical dress and fake beards. The brothers claim the inspiration for their show came from an editorial in the Samford Crimson asking whether or not Jesus would have been in a fraternity. According to directors Todd Oakley and Christian Corts, Jesus was in a fraternity, better known as the twelve disciples.

Whether or not they convinced everyone of their argument is uncertain, but the audience certainly laughed throughout their entire show that included a rap portrayal of Peter walking on water set to the rap song "Walk it Out." They also performed a gospel style routine of the song "Joyful, Joyful" which included everything from the gates of Heaven to the Book of

Life. Despite being a clear fan favorite, the brothers of Sigma Chi were still surprised to win. "For me, it was a relief that the time we put into the show was worth it," said the show's choreographer, junior business major Matt Mogle. "Not many guys expected to win sweepstakes."

First runner-up was awarded to defending champions Dudes-A-Plenty for their show "Magic," which told the story of a magician attempting to impress a girl, but was thwarted by the failure of his tricks. Co-director and senior English major Jay Lasater said that the inspiration for all of their shows come from things little boys like. Magic was yet another fun theme to follow their previous shows based on monsters, robots and pirates. Apparently, their choices of themes are favorites of more than just little boys. Dudes-A-Plenty has either won Sweepstakes or first runner-up since their conception in 2005.

Lasater was proud of the show they put together this year. "Even though we didn't win, we did do two things that a Step Sing stage has never seen. We levitated an emo-rap Harry Potter and had an onstage kiss. I call that a success," he said.

Second runner-up went to the sisters of Phi Mu whose show "Se7en" was definitely out of the box, featuring songs about the seven deadly sins. The completely family-friendly show also won the judges' award for excellence in theme and the participants' choice awards for Best Overall and Best Choreography. "We got to display so many types of different personalities; we got to be prideful, flirty and mad," said Director and senior journalism and mass communications major Maegan Wilson. "It made it so much more fun to perform."

The sisters of Alpha Delta Pi won the judges' award for excellence in choreography and the brothers of Pi Kappa Phi won the participants' choice for Best Costume. All of the Step Sing participants collected money for this year's philanthropy, The Cystic Fibrosis Foundation. The Community Service Award for the most money raised went to the sisters of Alpha Omicron Pi. "It's always an honor to win the service award. We love that Step Sing is not only fun and entertaining, but also brings awareness and provides funding for a disease that has touched many lives as Samford," said AOPi President Megan Christians. Other 2008 show participants included two freshman ladies groups, Zeta Tau Alpha, Lambda Chi, Independent Ladies, Chi Omega and this year's only co-ed show, University Ministries.

At the end of the evening Sigma Chi may have left with the title and the trophy, but all the Step Sing participants left with a tiredness after three weeks of hard work and the lingering exhilaration that only comes from performing on stage in front of a live audience. "I've been in Zeta's Step Sing shows since my freshman year and for me, the third time was just as great as the first," said junior journalism and mass communications major Grace Stephens. "I'll be back next year and I can't wait."



# Step Sing 2008 Winners

Sweepstakes- Sigma Chi



1st RunnerUp-Dudes-a-Plenty



2nd Runner Up-Phi Mu

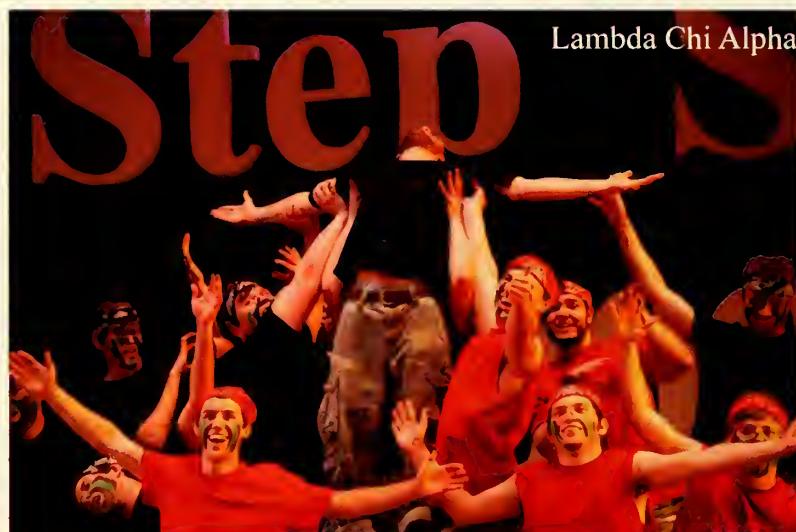
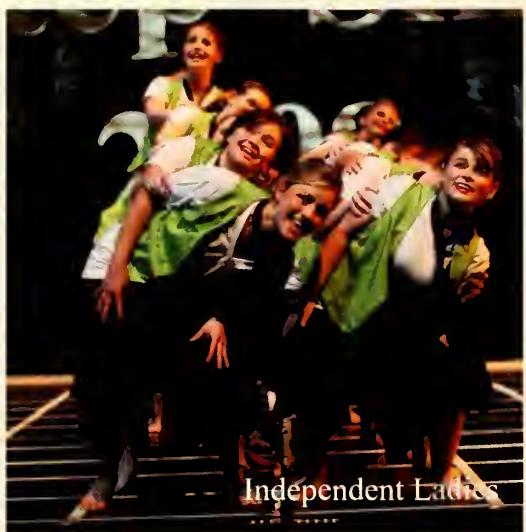
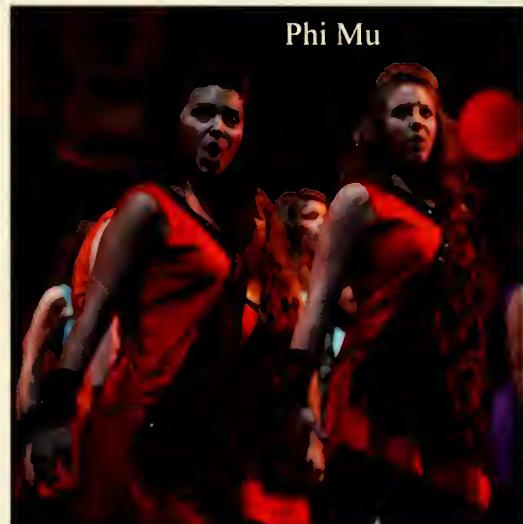


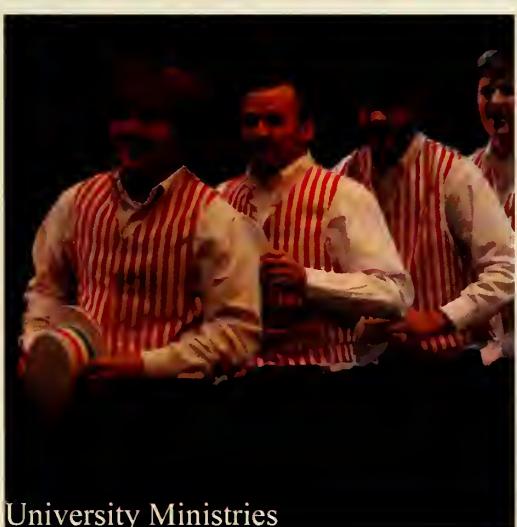
Judges Awards- ALpha Delta Pi



Best Costumes- Pi Kappa Phi







# Augustana Highlights Spring Fling

By Michelle Kelly

Photos: Terra Garmin and Allyson Dewell

Spread: Austin Richardson

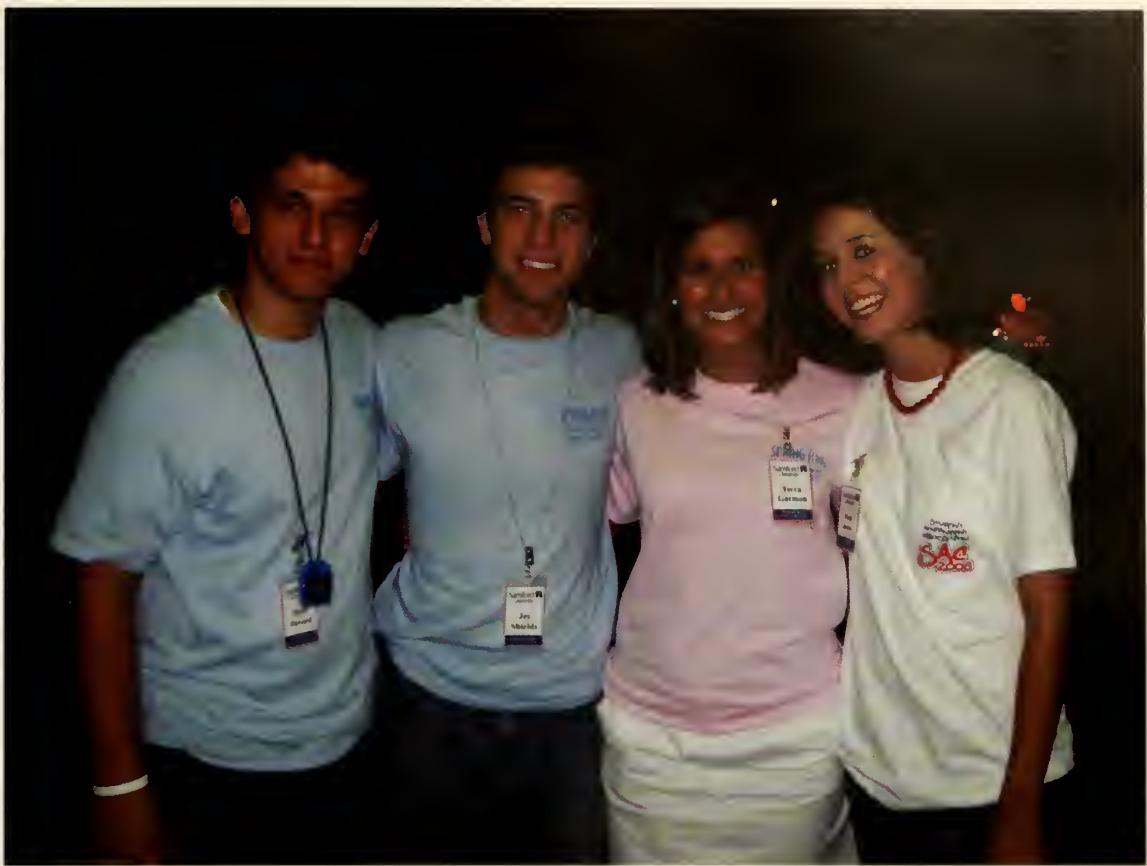
The stretch of school between spring break and summer vacation can sometimes seem never-ending. Thankfully, several events were planned as part of Spring Fling this year to keep up the spirits of Samford students.

Spring Fling was held from Thursday, April 24 to Saturday, April 26 and was planned by the Student Activities Council and the Office of Student Involvement. An array of events from free snow cones in Ben Brown Plaza to a spring scrimmage game for the Samford football team were included in the three days of fun. The most talked about event was easily the Augustana concert held Friday night in the Wright Center. The alternative rock band released their debut CD in 2003 and has gained a lot of recognition with their single "Boston."

The Student Activities Council is hoping to continue to bring bands to Samford and with the more that come, the better the chances of getting more big-name performers in the future. "It is always exciting to have people of this caliber come and perform," SGA Vice President of Programming Lee Ross said.

All in all, Spring Fling was a welcome break from the pressure of the weeks leading up to finals, and the Augustana concert was a break from the usual entertainment in the "Samford bubble." "I was excited when I heard Augustana was coming to Samford. It's really a treat when a big band comes here, considering I still have to tell people Samford, not Stanford," said junior nursing major Amy Pope.





# Crawfish Traditions

By Heather Mackey

Photos, Illustration and Spread: Austin Richardson

Students flocked down to the baseball field on a hot Saturday afternoon to enjoy good food, good friends and to support the Samford baseball team at this year's Crawfish Boil. The girls were in comfortable dresses, the guys were excited about free food and everyone was working on their tan. The baseball team took on Morehead State in a doubleheader with a large fan base to push them to victory.

The Panhellenic Council, Interfraternity Council and SGA sponsored the Crawfish Boil. The event always brings an eager crowd of hungry students who enjoy getting a little messy to enjoy the fun Samford baseball tradition.

Seniors, Kristen Chafin and Jessica Lambert went to enjoy some quality roommate time and get a little dirty, all for the sake of the Crawfish Boil. "The crawfish are messy and a lot of work for a small amount of food, but the tradition makes it worth the work for some food and to come enjoy this time with others," Chafin said. "This gives me a chance to get out and visit with friends and enjoy the nice weather outside. The

Crawfish boil has a great atmosphere and is really enjoyable overall."

Lambert agreed and says her favorite part of the Crawfish Boil is how so many people come out for the event. "Everywhere you look around the field and in the stands, there are tons of people. It makes for a great afternoon to enjoy everyone's company and cheer on the team," Lambert said. "This way the team can really feel a large crowd behind them cheering them on."

Another exciting fact to this year's Crawfish Boil was that Liberty SU, Samford's new live bulldog, made her first appearance before the game started. Samford athletics will call her Libby SU, as in SU for Samford University. She is a five-year-old bulldog. Senior Gavin Mayo thinks she will be a great addition to the Samford athletics program.





# “Born in the USA”

By Kelli Winn

Photos: Amy Grace Robertson and Kelli Winn

Spread: Austin Richardson

Here at Samford, we are fortunate to have such a plethora of study abroad opportunities. There are so many options to choose from, it is hard to decide where to spend your Jan-Term, summer or semester if you choose to leave the campus. Students can decide between London, Costa Rica, Spain, France, Germany, Italy, Belize or Tanzania.

I've been lucky enough to travel to two of Samford's most popular study abroad destinations: Spain and London. I spent five weeks in Spain in the summer of 2007 and two weeks in the Daniel House in London during Jan-Term 2008. They were both wonderful and equally exhilarating in their own ways, and I know that I will carry both of those experiences with me even after my years here at Samford.

Spain was actually my first experience with leaving the country. As I was boarding the plane from Atlanta to Madrid, I found myself having feelings of both nervousness and excitement all rolled into one. One of my greatest wishes in life has always been to travel as much as I can and experience and see what the world has to offer. The realization that I was embarking on my first overseas venture was a very strange feeling; I guess it's what most of us felt when we came to college. Going somewhere new is not always easy, but we have to give ourselves a chance to write a new chapter.

After arriving in Madrid, my roommate, Amy Grace Robertson, and I were introduced to our “madre,” the Spanish woman that we were to spend the next month living with. As the three of us were all cramming into the back seat of a taxi cab, I heard a familiar voice. It was Bruce Springsteen! The cab driver was listening to “Born in the USA.” It was a little ironic, and, I must say, a little comforting.

I spent my first week adjusting to the new culture and trying to speak a foreign language in which I was only embar-



rassingly mediocre. Let's just say that I wasn't at the “advanced” Spanish-speaking level. But as I was told, my Spanish improved a great deal while in Spain; something that I am very thankful for.

After spending four weeks in Madrid, I started to realize how comfortable I was feeling with my surroundings. Everything felt very familiar to me. My “madre” began to feel like a grandmother to me, and my room started to feel like “my room.” I wasn't sure how it had happened, but somewhere along the line, Spain had begun to feel like “home.”

Leaving Madrid to embark on our week long tour of Southern Spain was very bittersweet. I was excited for a





new adventure, but a little sad to be leaving the city that I had become so comfortable with. I must say, the tour south turned out to be the best trip that I'd ever taken. We traveled to a different city everyday, stopping off at some of Spain's most historic and beautiful cities including Granada, Segovia, Seville, Torremolinos and probably the most memorable for me, Gibraltar, where a monkey actually climbed on my head!

After returning home from Spain, I began planning my next study abroad adventure. Where would I go next? London, of course! I had heard nothing but wonderful things about the London program and the Daniel House. After arriving, I found all of those wonderful things to be true. I took the appreciation class while in London for Jan-Term. There was a lot of walking and visiting museums and theatres and not a whole lot of free time. Regardless, I loved every single minute of it all. It was basically a two week crash course in London culture, theatre and art. I learned so much while in London. I even developed a new appreciation for what is now my favorite style of painting: Impressionism. My new favorite artist of all time is Claude Monet. I had heard of him several times before, but actually standing with my nose two feet away from some of his greatest works really opened my eyes. I had become a full fledged "art lover" standing frozen, staring in the middle of the Courtauld Gallery in London.

The artwork was just a portion of the beauty of London. Everywhere I looked, I saw a building or a park that took my breath away. The city is full of antique beauty with a lot of modern architecture. Some people joke because they say the

city is kind of "mismatched" in a way. I liked the mix of styles though. Something I really admire about the historic city is that it has just moved forward with the rest of the world without losing sight of what it was before.

The theatre was probably my favorite part of London. Being a theatre major, I was in absolute heaven! London is the theatre capital of the world and rightly so. I saw some of the best productions I have ever seen there. I couldn't believe how fantastic it was. My roommate, Allison Lott, and I made a vow to see as much theatre as possible while we were there. I think we went to see a show every single night.

On our free weekend, we decided to do what any good tourist in London would do: visit Abbey Road and take the infamous "Beatles" picture, something my longtime Beatles-loving father was very happy about. It took a lot of work to dodge the cars and we were almost hit several times, but we finally got the perfect picture. That day definitely went down in my book as what I call a "live over" day: one of those days that are so great, you wish you could live it all over again.

My study abroad experiences with Samford were full of so many of those great days that I know I will never forget. I wish I could share them all, but those kinds of stories are never as great if you don't actually live them yourself. That's why I highly encourage everyone to participate in at least one of the many study abroad programs offered while at Samford. Let yourself go and make your own adventures and most of all, don't be afraid to give yourself the chance to write a new chapter. Safe travels everyone!

# The World Goes Round

By Kelli Winn

Photos: Courtesy of Theatre Department

Spread: Austin Richardson

The World Goes Round...that was the theme for six Samford students as their world revolved around rehearsals for *The World Goes Round*, a musical review of John Kander and Fred Ebb songs.

Matt Andrews, Jeff Caulk, Ryan Ford, Rachel Holland, Caitlin Huie and Natalie Saxon were all cast in the show in December 2006. They rehearsed once a week for the entire 2007 spring semester with the director, Dr. G. William Bugg. Each of the cast members took it upon themselves to memorize the music over the summer before coming back to Samford. They then had two weeks of rehearsal to learn all of the choreography before opening night, with fellow cast member, Caitlin Huie, serving as choreographer.

Even though it was a short amount of time to put a show together, Huie said she had complete confidence in her peers. "It was hectic, but working under and with diligent professionals assured me the show would reach its full potential."

Andrews said that he appreciated the short rehearsal time because it provided him with a real world experience. "I thought this short period of practice was a positive thing because it didn't interfere with classes that much, and it gave us the real Broadway experience of learning a show in about three weeks." They did put together quite an entertaining show. It looked as though they had been rehearsing for months, not just a few weeks.

The show consisted of 25 different songs written by Kander and Ebb, the famous musical theatre duo. Kander and Ebb first collaborated in the 1960's, and their show tunes are still widely popular today. *The World Goes Round* is a tribute to the duo that wrote such classic songs as "New York, New York" and "Cabaret." "Their music is catchy and fun while also being moving and deep," Saxon said. "The show encompasses the range of emotions that one experiences throughout life."

Indeed it did. The show depicted everything from falling in love to getting your heart broken, from the happiest of times to the lowest of times in life; all the while still letting you know that "the world goes 'round," no matter what comes your way.

The show was a great hit with audience members, but cast members like Caulk acknowledge that it wouldn't have been as successful without those behind the scenes. "I was continuously impressed by my peers performing on the stage and those working off the stage," said Caulk. "The show could not have been as successful as it was without their technical support."

Cast members said that the performance was not the only fun aspect of being in the show. Huie admitted that even the rehearsals were exciting. "We had a blast at every rehearsal." She accredits much of that to the director, Dr. Bugg.

The show ran for two nights, but that is not a reflection on how long this show will be remembered. It was a favorite of many and leaves them looking forward to more entertaining musical reviews in the future.



# One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest

By Amy Grace Robertson

Photos: Courtesy of the Theatre Department

Spread: Austin Richardson

Samford University Theatre presented *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest* based on the 1962 novel by Ken Kesey. The Broadway production ran from 1962 until 1964 and was directed by Dale Wasserman. It began running off-Broadway in 1971 and returned in 2001. In 1976, Jack Nicholson starred as one of the main characters, Randal Patrick McMurphy in the film version directed by Milos Forman. The film received five Oscars.

The play focuses on residents of an insane asylum that resides under the strict control of Nurse Ratched played by junior theatre major Annie Hackney. However, a rebel character named Randal McMurphy steps onto the scene. Senior theatre major John Cooley played McMurphy.

"He is pretty much a low life. He doesn't have a job, spends all of his time drinking, gambling, getting into fights and hanging around with prostitutes. He spends a lot of time in and out of jail and work farms," Cooley said.

McMurphy went into the asylum assuming his life would be easier. Not long after his arrival at the institution, he developed relationships with the other patients. He soon began to influence the other residents to stand up for themselves against Nurse Ratched. The narrator of the play, Chief Bromden, the son of a Columbia Indians Chief was played by senior theatre major Matt Godfrey. The cast of the show experienced a rare luxury with rehearsal time. Instead of a short amount of time, they were given eight weeks to bring the production together.

"Practicing for eight weeks really made a difference, especially for this performance. Everybody had the opportunity to become really comfortable with their characters," said junior theatre major Kelli Winn. It was not just the eight weeks that made the production such a success. "The director, Brad Roller did such a great job with making us understand our characters," said Winn. "He did all of these cool exercises with us where we had to react to situations as our characters would. I remember this one where he had us move around the stage according to the personalities of our characters. Mine was shy and timid so I had to express that in how I walked. It really helped me explore my character, Nurse Flinn."

The eight weeks also provided the cast members who were patients, Neal Tucker, Rush Brunson, Jordan Bondurant, Paul Lance, Bill Camp and Cody Hays, the chance to develop their characters. Each of the patients came up with their own ticks and problems. The actors were allowed to create a personality and handicap for their character.

"Everybody brought so much to the table and it was really cool to see how everyone grew throughout the entire production," said Winn. "It didn't matter whether you were in the play or helping on set; being in the environment was an amazing opportunity to enhance your skills and have fun."

Not only was the show fun for the actors, it was great for the audience as well. "I can't believe how funny the play turned out to be. They took a really serious subject and made it interesting and light-hearted, all-the-while appealing to the emotional side of mental illnesses," said junior history major Katie Slade.

Director and senior theatre major Brad Roller said, "We sympathize with the patients, understand their plight...The story is relatable to us all, because at some point in our lives, we have all had to decide—do we apologize when it wasn't our fault, argue with the boss when we know we are right or accept the blame for the good of the group? This incredible tale has spoken to me for many years. After experiencing three formats of the story—reading the novel, watching the film and seeing the stage performance—I knew this play must be shown."

It was Roller's idea and senior project to produce *Cuckoo's Nest* at Samford.



# A Night at the Opera: Die Fledermaus' Samford Debut

By Jordan Jarvis

Photos: Becky Ellenberger

Spread. Austin Richardson

*Die Fledermaus* premiered in Samford University's Harrison Theatre in Swearingen Hall Thursday, November 15 through Sunday, November 19. *Die Fledermaus*, a Viennese operetta, was an outlet not only for the Samford and Birmingham community to enjoy a night at the opera, but also gave Samford students and alumni an opportunity to showcase their theatrical and musical talent.

Composed by Johann Strauss, *Die Fledermaus* presented a lighthearted operetta in the midst of the more complex and cynical operas of its day. Set during the 1890's in Vienna, *Die Fledermaus*, full of wit and deception, was told in three riveting acts with two intermissions. In the first act, viewers were met with the delightful sound of a live orchestra composed of Samford students who played everything from violins to a piccolo. The audience was then introduced to the character of Adele, a chambermaid who would love nothing more than to be a wealthy actress and was played in a double-cast role by Lydia Myers and Haley Longino.

Longino, a junior vocal performance major, said, "The fact that the show was double cast was very unique and enjoyable. It was fun to see how a character can be approached in different ways. I have also never been in a big opera production like *Die Fledermaus*, and it was a wonderful experience."

Adele's character was marked by witty schemes to attend Prince Orlofsky's masked ball with her sister Sally, double cast as Britta Lindborg and Sadie Frazier, borrow an evening gown without her mistress knowing, conceal her identity behind a mask so as not to be caught by her boss and keep up her faux identity as a rising star by singing so skillfully and elegantly that even the tough Prince Orlofsky, double-cast as Jenny Wiggins and Lindsey Denton, was charmed.

Adele's mistress, Rosalinda, double casted as Caitlin Huie and Samantha Chambers, found herself in a tangled love triangle. Though she was married to the wealthy Gabrielle Eisenstein, Rosalinda finds her heart torn between the attractiveness of an old lover Alfred, who is played by Ryan Ford, and his well-sung tenor notes and staying devoted to her dear Gabrielle who is about to serve a short jail sentence. Alfred was eventually mistaken as Rosalinda's husband by the jail warden Frank, played by Jeffery Caulk, and is forced to serve Gabrielle's jail sentence.

Chambers, a senior musical theatre major, who played the role of Rosalinda in the Friday and Sunday showings,



said, "Die Fledermaus was unique for me, as it was the first full-length opera that I've done at Samford. I'm used to doing strictly musicals, apart from the opera scenes that we do each year. It was surprising just how exhausting it is to keep up such a physically and vocally demanding role. The show was also double-cast, which was a new experience, but my counter-part, Caitlin Huie was a real pleasure to work with."

Rosalinda ultimately remains faithful to her husband, refusing Alfred's romantic advances, only to find out her husband's lying, womanizing nature through her attendance to Prince Orlofsky's masked ball, in which she disguises herself as a Hungarian countess. Rosalinda's dramatic nature and constant high and lows in her mood reflected the amazing range in her operatic voice as well.

Rosalinda's husband, Gabrielle Eisenstein, was played by Samford alumnus and current graduate student Bob Becklean, who is pursuing a masters in church music. Concerning *Die Fledermaus*, Becklean said, "I loved working with the cast and crew throughout the show. I was able to learn so much about performing in Opera that I never would have been able to do. Also the audiences and actually performing has always been a passion of mine, so you can't go wrong there."

As the story opens, Gabrielle is in great distress and frustration because he has to serve a lengthy jail sentence for civil disobedience and blames the prolonged sentence on his lawyer Blind, played by Ragan Deal. Gabrielle is visited by an old friend, Dr. Falke played by Daniel Banke, and is convinced to lie to Rosalinda and leave the house to supposedly go to jail when he is actually going to attend Prince Orlofsky's masked ball, where Gabrielle is promised to find beautiful, young women galore. As Gabrielle attends the great ball under a fake name and meets the great Prince Orlofsky, Gabrielle eventually meets a Hungarian countess, which is actually his wife Rosalinda, and tries to woo her.

The ball is full of beautifully clad guests composed of a chorus of Samford students, who drink champagne and toast

to happy times as they dance the night away. At six that following morning, Gabrielle goes to the jail only to find another man, Alfred, in his place and becomes infuriated the man was found in the Eisenstein home with Rosalinda's consent.

At *Die Fledermaus'* end, all deception is unveiled by Dr. Falke who actually set the entire scheme up himself in order to repay Gabrielle Eisenstein for a practical joke played on Falke years ago, identifying himself as "The Bat." Banke's wit and impressive voice displayed his hard work and practice. Banke said, "Any time I do any kind of stage work, I get the sense that I am doing something much bigger than myself. *Die Fledermaus* is an operetta which has been performed by many great people, and I felt the need to invest as much of myself in it as possible so as to continue the tradition." Prince Orlofsky's entire party, the warden Frank and his drunken jailer Frosch, played by Alan Taylor, attend the jail with champagne as Rosalinda and Gabrielle resolve their hurts.

Many Samford students and faculty invested much of their time and energy to make *Die Fledermaus* the worthwhile production it was. "We have been meeting for rehearsals since the first day of school," Chambers said. "However, the principals all had their scores over the summer to work on. We met three times a week for rehearsals until about a month before the production, when rehearsals increased to almost every day. Close to production time, there were days that we were in rehearsal from 3 to 5 p.m., and then back again for a 7 to 9 p.m. rehearsal after a dinner break."

*Die Fledermaus* truly was a large performance, including not only the acting and operatic singing of the cast, but also the singing of the chorus composed of 12 Samford performers, ballet dancers Carleton Meadows and Sarah-Grace Self, and a powerful orchestra. With stunning 1890's costumes and lavish, detailed sets and props, and enjoyable singing, acting and dancing, *Die Fledermaus* was well-received by the Samford and Birmingham community for its professionalism and uniqueness.





10 Minutes  
of Fame

# Lights, Camera, Action!

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*By Megan Christians*

*Illustration and Spread: Austin Richardson*

Lights, camera, action! This year's annual fall 10 Minute Play Festival displayed an array of student acting and directing talent. "It's a chance for us to practice what we've learned about play directing and an opportunity for students to get on the stage," junior theater major Annie Hackney said.

The festival is put on every fall by the beginning directing class as their final project of the semester. Each student picks a 10 minute play or one act to direct. They hold open auditions for actors, and this year, there was an overwhelming response by both theater majors and non-theater majors. "I enjoy working on the 10 Minute Play Festival because all the students are so passionate about it," said junior theater major Kelli Winn. "I especially love to see students from other departments come and support us with their own talent."

The 10 Minute Play Festival is one of the few open opportunities for the whole student body to be involved. "There are plenty of students on campus with a hidden talent for acting. They just never get a chance to express it. That is why the festival is so great. It brings us together as a campus," said Winn.

Some plays chosen came from Samford alumni or staff adding to the "homegrown" feel. "I directed the play written by our own Mark Castle called 'Life of a Foreman,'" said Hackney. "Directing the play was a blast, but what impressed me the most was how willing my cast was to try new things. Each one of them carved out a living, breathing, believable character, and I could not have been more satisfied with their dedication to the play."

Each year brings about a new set of directors and their own challenges. But it is about more than just the performances; it is an invaluable learning experience for all who truly love the craft. "We're just a bunch of actors, directors and designers trying to put on a good show," Hackney said.

# Twelfth Night: A Night with Shakespeare

By Kelli Winn

Photos: Jordan Jarvis

Spread: Austin Richardson

William Shakespeare is one of the most, if not *the* most, well known and celebrated playwrights in the history of the theatre. Perhaps this is why the Samford Theatre Department decided to pay homage to the popular playwright with their production of *Twelfth Night*.

Attempting to recreate a setting that audience members at Shakespeare's Globe Theatre would have experienced, they chose to have absolutely no set accented with very minimal lighting, just as Shakespeare himself would have had it. Despite the decision to have no set, there was still a need for a space that was able to stand alone and speak for itself. Brock Recital Hall was chosen to fulfill this task, making *Twelfth Night* the first play to be performed in the new recital hall. Junior theatre and music double major Emily Hoppe, who played the part of Feste, said she was glad to have been a part of history making in Brock. "It's a great space and it was really fun to have it used in the capacity of theatre, instead of just music," said Hoppe.

Even with the throw back to Shakespeare's day, the actors did a great job of taking the sometimes confusing language of the play and presenting it in a way that kept the 21<sup>st</sup> century audience engaged. For much of the play, like in the hilarious "tree scene," where Sir Andrew (Jordan Bondurant) Sir Toby (Neal Tucker) and Fabian (Matt Godfrey) follow Malvolio (John Cooley) around disguised by fake Christmas trees. The audience was bellyaching with laughter. The success with audience members did not come without hard work, though. Most nights, the cast spent around three hours rehearsing.

"Those four actors in particular had to work hard to make the comedy of Shakespeare understandable so that audiences could enjoy it too," said Hoppe.

Already having a British director, Professor Mark Castle, the theatre department decided they would bring another man in from Shakespeare's homeland to help with the process. John Lloyd Fillingham is a very successful British actor and an assistant director at the Dukes Theatre in Lancaster, England. Fillingham has performed in the best of the best theatres in England including the Royal Shakespeare Company and the National Theatre in London. This makes for quite a resume and the cast was glad to have Fillingham, better known to some of the students as "JLF," to offer his advice during the last week of rehearsal. "JLF is a great actor and director and a real asset to have had with us. It was great," said senior theatre major Matt Godfrey.

The experience for the actors may have been great, but it's no surprise that the show itself turned out to be great as well. Audience members laughed until they couldn't laugh anymore at the goofy and loveable characters of *Twelfth Night*.

The Samford audience is looking forward to more from the theatre department, especially more Shakespeare. Hoppe hopes to have the chance to perform Shakespeare again before she graduates. "It was really interesting and exciting to study Shakespeare so intensely, instead of just reading it," said Hoppe. "I got the chance to explore a specific character. I'm looking forward to having such an opportunity again."





# Oleanna: The Line between Right and Wrong

By Ruth Woodall

Photos: Courtesy of the Theatre Department

Spread. Austin Richardson

Samford University's theatre department took a chance with their production of *Oleanna* by David Mamet in February. Directed by Neal Tucker, the play contained only two actors and no scene changes. Surprisingly, the simplicity of *Oleanna* helped lend to the play's effectiveness.

Chelsea Reynolds played the part of Carol, a seemingly timid college student searching for guidance and help from her professor. Santiago Sosa played the part of John, a distracted professor with a personal life spinning out of control. Chelsea said she "felt honored to play this role with such an amazing acting partner and director."

The play was set in the office of a professor who is up for tenure. The play revolves around the conflict between John, the professor, and Carol,

his student. *Oleanna* confronts conflict between the sexes and the issue of sexual harassment by following the story of John and Carol. John is distracted by both his professional and personal life and feels that his actions toward Carol are appropriate. On the other hand, Carol is a distraught student searching for help and advice from her teacher. The play was built to make the audience torn between the two characters. While some may view the behavior in the office as appropriate, others may side with Carol and see it as sexual harassment.

Aside from the verbal exchange between the actors, *Oleanna* provided the audience with countless subtle visual aids. Everything from the dramatic change in the actors clothing and posture, to the discrete use of lighting intensified the play's effect. The audience watched as Carol's character evolved from a shaken and unsure student to a powerful, outspoken woman. Carol's advances as a character came in sharp contrast to the deterioration of John's appearance, stability and career.





The issue for the audience comes in siding with one of the characters. Some may feel that Carol is justified in her accusations that John harassed her, while others may feel that Carol was manipulative and dishonest. Tucker described the conflict within the play best by saying, "When the miscommunication of one gender, religious affiliation, sexual orientation, ethnic origin or otherwise is construed as offensive or demeaning, Lady Justice stands blindfolded and ready to rectify. But, what if the miscommunication is unintentional? What happens when the unpremeditated meets the predisposed, resulting in a clash of world views? What if what was said in no way resembles an offensive statement? It's one word against another. We must decide between ourselves." Whatever the case, there is no question that *Oleanna* leaves the audience thinking.



# Oompa Loompas Invade the Stage

By Megan Christians

Photos: Austin Richardson

Spread: Laura Armstrong

This spring, oompa loompas, golden tickets and a river of pure chocolate visited Samford's campus. *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory* was put on by the theatre department and benefited the Lovelady Center, a women's shelter in Birmingham.

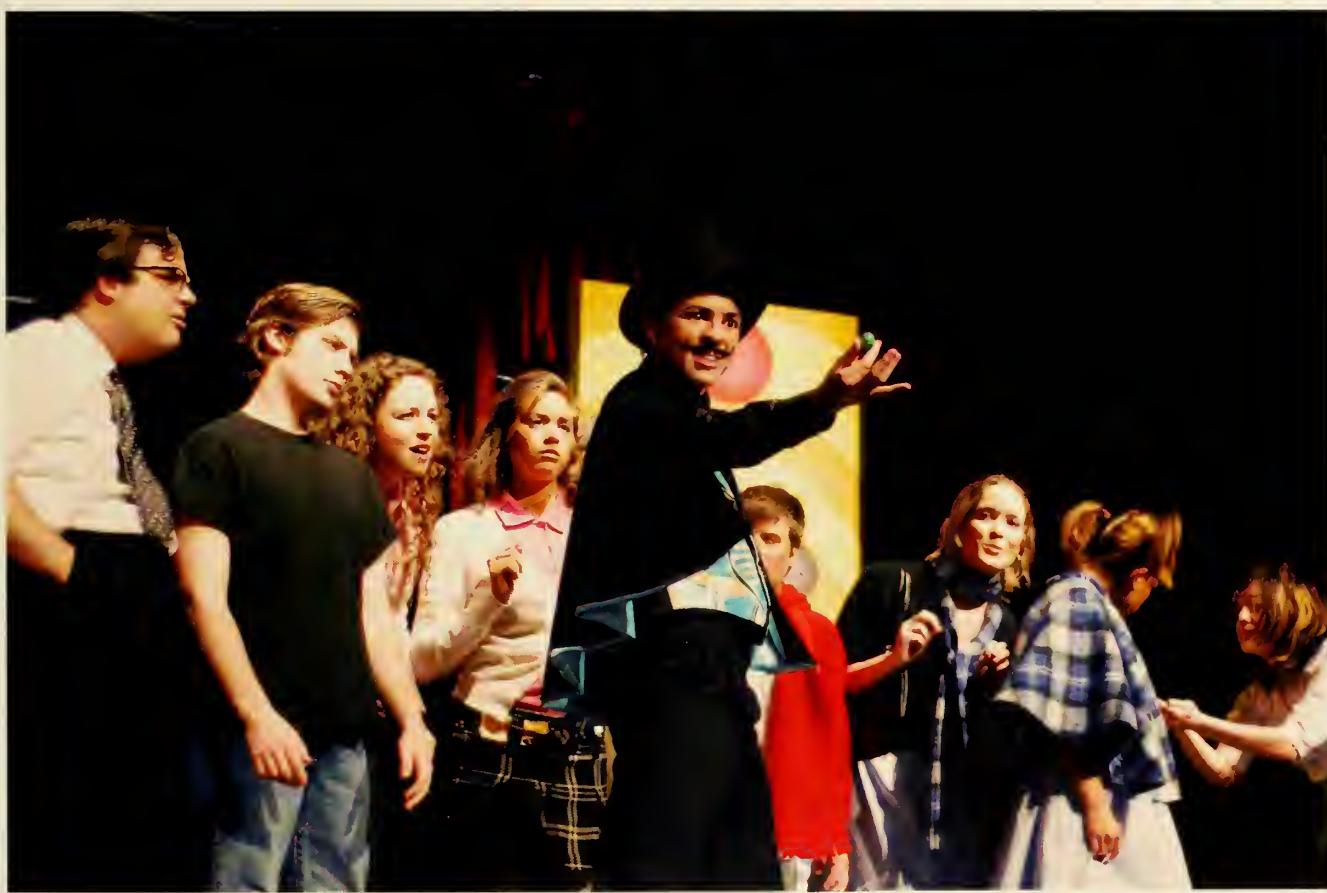
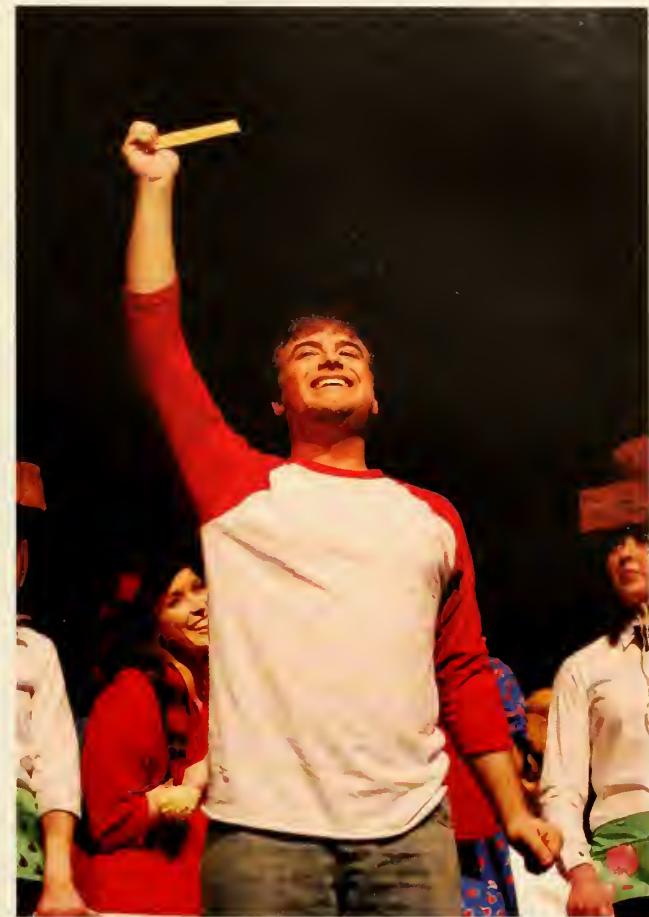
Senior Theatre major Natalie Saxon, who directed the play as her senior project, chose the Lovelady Center because she was "moved by what the organization stands for and the impact it's had on so many women's lives." The center houses women and their children while they get back on their feet after they are released from prison. During the three performances in Benjamin F. Harrison Theatre, raffles and contests such as guessing the number of Gobstoppers in the fish bowl were held in order to raise money for the center. There was also a private performance for the women and children.

*Charlie and the Chocolate Factory* was comprised of a cast of 25 students and child actors. The production had a minimal set which allowed the audience members to take on an active part by engaging their imaginations. If one looked past the oompa loompas, there were also important life lessons to be learned. "It's such a creative way for children to be taught moral lessons," Saxon said. "You know, lessons about the importance of reading and not watching too much television."

Students who had the opportunity to see the play said it reminded them of the movie and book when they were children. "It was very cleverly done," junior graphic design major Jessica Snow said. "It had all the magic of the movie, but because it was on stage, there was a twist."

Through *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*, Samford helped raise awareness and support for an important cause while students received the benefit of seeing a thoroughly entertaining performance. "I am very excited by how original and fresh our approach to the play was," said Saxon, "and that I got to be involved in a Theatre production that went beyond the university."





# Copenhagen

By Megan Christians and Michelle Kelly

Photos: Courtesy of the Theatre Department

Spread: Austin Richardson

The Samford Theatre department is known for thinking outside the box. This belief was proven through their production of the play *Copenhagen*, which was performed in March at the Samford planetarium.

The play was written by Michael Frayn and was based on a meeting between the physicists Niels Bohr and Werner Heisenberg in Copenhagen, Denmark in 1941. It debuted in London in 1998 and on Broadway in 2000 and won numerous Tony awards.

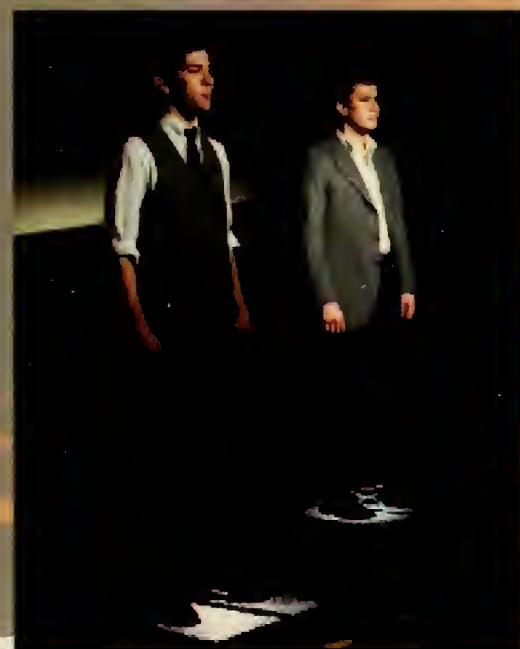
Matt Godfrey chose to direct the play for his senior project and assembled a cast of senior Theatre majors including Natalie Saxon as Margrethe Bohr, Brad Roller as Heisenberg and John Cooley as Bohr. They joined fellow senior Theatre major Maria Williams who served as the stage manager.

This group of seniors brought a wealth of experience to the production. Williams, who has acted as stage manager for three other Samford plays including *The Secret Garden* and *One Flew over the Cuckoo's Nest*, has nothing but the highest opinion for the group she worked with on *Copenhagen*. "When it comes to the actors, it was a coincidence that they were all seniors, but the play could not have been acted by anyone else," said Williams. "These three actors are the cream of our crop and no one could have done a better job from our department."

Having such a small cast to work with was both a challenging and rewarding experience for Saxon. "It is harder in the sense that, the less people that are cast, the larger the role and the greater the responsibility. With such a challenging show like *Copenhagen*, it was great that there was such a high level of trust between the actors," Saxon said.

During its run in London and Broadway, *Copenhagen* was performed in the round. To achieve the same effect at Samford, the planetarium was used to create an intimate space for both the actors and the audience. "It was a unique feeling having a play performed in the planetarium," said Emma Breeden, a sophomore elementary education major. "But I liked it because there was more of a connection with the characters. The performance seemed to be directed personally to you."

For some this performance was a long time coming. "I know that Matt has wanted to do this play since his sophomore year," Williams said. And what better way to end a senior year then with a story of friendship, science and the belief in fate.



# A Piece of My Heart

By Michelle Kelly

Photos and Spread: Austin Richardson

Samford students are used to seeing a slightly disproportionate amount of females to males on campus, but the Samford Theatre production of the play *A Piece of My Heart* took it one step further with almost an entire female cast portraying the lives of women who served in the Vietnam War.

The play, which was written by Shirley Lauro, was held in Bolding Studio on April 10-13. The small studio provided an intimate setting that allowed the audience to easily connect with the small seven-person cast. The story followed six different women who held jobs from nurses to music performers who were brought over to Vietnam to entertain the troops. The plot jumped from woman to woman as their stories were told before, during and after the war.

Kelli Winn, a junior theatre and journalism mass communications double major, played Whitney, a very proper and educated young woman who volunteers with the Red Cross. Winn, despite her experience in several other Samford plays, found playing an idealistic woman turned alcoholic very difficult. "This role was very different than any other I've played here at Samford. It was a challenge; the emotions were really hard to understand and portray at first, but the more we rehearsed, the better I was able to relate to my character," Winn said.

With a play full of violence centered on a controversial war, it had to be handled delicately and deliberately by all involved. Kelly Knowlton, a senior theatre major and art minor, made her directing debut with *A Piece of My Heart*. She believes that hearing the stories of those who have served in the military helps to understand how they felt and what they went through.

Daniel King, a freshman theatre major, was the only male actor in the production and played a variety of different American men. Going into the play as both a freshman and the only male actor could have been intimidating, but King handled it well. "*A Piece of My Heart* was both a challenge and then again not hard for me at all. I didn't find it difficult to work in an all-female cast, because I knew every talented lady in the show as well as the director prior to the show. Now, playing about sixteen different characters, on the other hand, took more work for me to do well," King said.

All in all, portraying such a wide range of emotions during a very difficult time in American history was a growing experience for the cast and allowed them to realize the sacrifices that have been made by America's servicemen and women. "I don't think it's possible for any of us to completely understand what happened to those who served in Vietnam, or any other war, for that matter," said Winn. "But, what we can do is listen to their stories and acknowledge the hardships they faced and the sacrifices they made for our country. Vets deserve our respect, no matter what our stances may be on war."





# Cinderella: Things are Happening Everyday



By Michelle Kelly

Photos: Courtesy of the Theatre Department

Spread: Austin Richardson

Complete with a lost glass slipper and handsome prince, the Samford University Theatre Department put their own spin on the well-known and loved story of *Cinderella*.

The cast and crew of *Cinderella* put on both matinee and evening performances of the classic Rodgers and Hammerstein's play May 1-4. The play featured a large cast with the main roles of Cinderella, the Prince and the Queen each being played by two actors who alternated performances. Barbara Cline and Christina Myers played Cinderella, Murphy Maddox and Jordan Bondurant played the Prince and Samantha Chambers and Alexandra Tate played the role of the Queen.

Emily Hoppe, a junior music and theatre double major, played the Fairy Godmother, a beloved character with a new twist. "My character seemed to be a big hit with older audiences, because it was different from the classic, sweet Godmother," Hoppe said.

The cast and crew performed several matinee performances so that local school groups could come and see the play. Despite performing a well known story to a group of children who would surely have a lot of prior knowledge about the classic Disney tale, Dr. Don Sandley, the play's director, did not decide to stick to the usual telling.

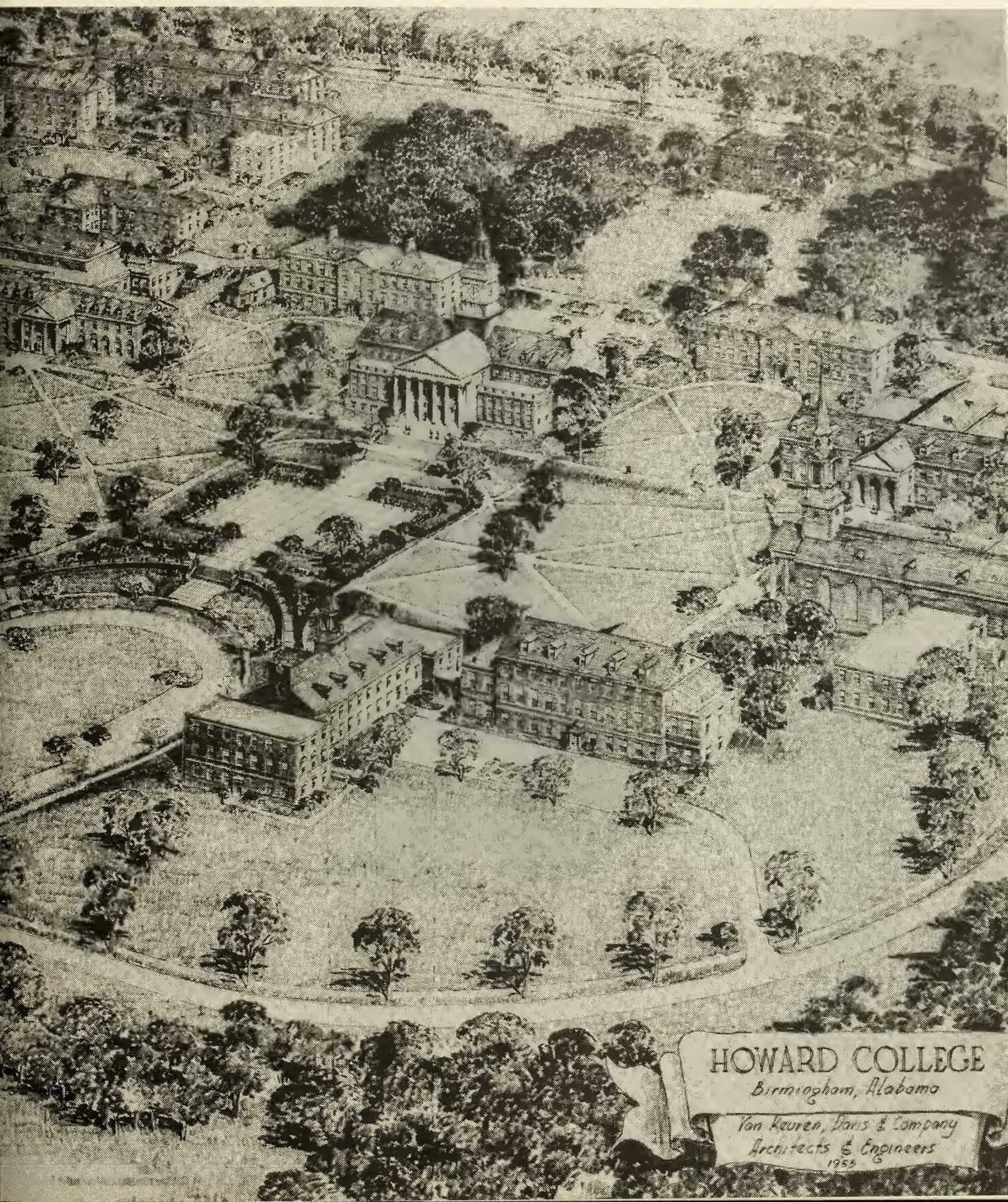
"Dr. Sandley recognized that we were doing a very well-known story and made a conscious decision to put his own spin on it," said Hoppe. "He gave the characters a new depth, and it was exciting to play with that. It was interesting to see the different ways the audiences of children would react to the performances compared to the evening audiences of students and other adults."





# Reveal





HOWARD COLLEGE  
Birmingham, Alabama

Van Keuren, Voss & Company  
Architects & Engineers  
1958

# 2008 Year in Review

By Allyson Dewell

Photos and Spread: Austin Richardson

## At Samford:

**October 17, 2007**

Samford Opens \$32 Million Pete Hanna Center



**November 21, 2007**

Samford's New Fitness/Wellness Center Opens



**December 5, 2007**

Nursing School Offers Doctor of Nursing Practice Degree



**January 2, 2008**

Samford Celebrates 166th Anniversary of its Opening



**January 28, 2008**

Business School becomes Brock School of Business



**March 9, 2008**

Ramsey dorm collapses



**March 28, 2008**

Samford Dedicates Brewer Plaza

**April 21, 2008**

Samford Announces New 'School of the Arts' Name

## Around the World:

### Politics:

How important are young people's votes? This year, people our age were actively involved in the debate process for both parties as the popular YouTube.com and Anderson Cooper hosted a unique and historical political debate. People were allowed to ask questions directly to candidates allowing citizens to ask the real questions and concerns that people from all over the country had. Heated debates, advertisements and speeches have kept us involved in a historical race. By early summer 2008, the race was limited to an exciting race between Senator Barack Obama and Senator John McCain.



### Economy:

Oil prices continue to rise throughout the year increasing gas prices across the country. Going into summer, the average gas price across the nation was over \$4. These prices have had an impact on travel and basic amenities that we use in every day life due to the increase in energy prices.

### Technology:

The new iPhone sweeps the nation as people combine all of their favorite products into one. The phone has music and photo storage capabilities and Internet connections. It has nifty features that are like no other phone product on the market and is continuing to improve and grow.



### Entertainment:

The world sits back in awe of the ridiculousness of Hollywood news. Britney Spears continues to appear across magazines and newspapers as we watch her custody battle of her children and her outrageous actions throughout the year. Lindsay Lohan continues this negative trend as we watch her going in and out of rehab. Jamie Lynn Spears, a teen star on Nickelodeon, gives birth to a baby girl, leading to many questions about her role as a popular teenager on the TV show Zoey 101.



# 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary on Lakeshore Campus: A History of Vision

By Caroline Poole

Photos: Courtesy of Samford University and Austin Richardson

Spread: Austin Richardson

On June 11, 1953 the leaders of Howard College broke ground on the site that currently houses the Samford University campus. The first building on the Lakeshore campus, Samford Hall, was dedicated in 1955 and the school officially moved to the location in 1957. Standing on the sprawling campus 50 years later, it's easy to see that we've come a long way from little Marion, Alabama, thanks to the vision of many along the journey.

In 1841 a group of influential leaders in the state chartered Howard College to be opened on January 3, 1842. Their vision was to found a religious institution of higher learning for men. On the Marion campus the college survived fire, war and reconstruction. Matching with the times of mass migration to cities and having a vision for the future, Howard moved to the East Lake campus in Birmingham in 1887.

The years on the East Lake campus were marked by many changes. Women were allowed to start attending in 1895 but the college didn't officially become co-education until 1913. The Teacher Education Division (now the Orlean Bullard Beeson School of Education) was established in 1920 and the Division of Pharmacy (now the McWhorter School of Pharmacy) was established in 1927. The Great Depression and World War II saw a decline in enrollment. However, thanks to Howard's leaders, especially President Harwell Goodwin Davis (1939-1957), the vision did not die. They lobbied for programs that saw an increase in enrollment and funds that would mean even more changes.

In the late 1940s, the Trustees and leaders began discussing yet another move. This time they were looking at a spot on the Cahaba River in the growing area in Shades Valley just south of Birmingham. With the ground breaking in 1953, the Georgian-Colonial campus began taking shape under Davis's vision. The leadership wanted to create a beautiful atmosphere conducive to learning and excelling. To this day, every building on campus has been built out of the Georgian-Colonial style, and it adds so much to the mood of the campus.



On the Lakeshore campus, the little school from Marion has come into its prime. In 1961, the college acquired the Cumberland School of Law from Lebanon, Tennessee. It was renamed Samford University, after Trustee and benefactor Frank Samford, in 1965 when it gained University status after reinstating the Masters program. In 1973, the Ida V. Moffett School of Nursing was acquired from the Baptist Medical Center of Birmingham, and in 1988, thanks to the generous donation from Ralph W. Beeson's estate, the Beeson School of Divinity was founded.

In 2003, the Board of Trustees approved a multiyear improvement plan for the campus. Since The Promise's inception, the Pete Hanna Center and Jane Hollock Brock Hall have now been added to the landscape. In addition, there is now a new Tennis Center and expanded parking facilities. There is astroturf on the football field and all classes will now be able to graduate on campus thanks to the 5,000 seating capacity in the Thomas E. and Marla H. Corts Arena.

With over 4,400 students from 39 different states and 30 foreign countries, the future looks bright for Samford University, and it's all thanks to the people who've loved it enough to have a vision.







# Safe Just Got Safer

By Matt Robertson

Photo and Spread. Austin Richardson

The focus on safety and security on college campuses is of utmost importance in this day and age. With unfortunate events like the Virginia Tech and Northern Illinois tragedies, as well as the violent acts like Columbine, the need for a structured law enforcement team on college campuses is a high priority. At Samford University, the Campus Safety unit strives to provide the safest and most secure environment possible for its students.

When the Virginia Tech tragedy occurred, law enforcement teams on many college campuses began to look at their own policies and operations as a way to provide a secure environment at all costs. Although security can never be guaranteed, campus safety units are finding new and improved ways to keep everyone on their campuses safe. In the same way, the Campus Safety team at Samford made many changes this year as a result of those tragedies.

Campus Safety Director Bobby Breed has been instrumental in policy change for the Samford unit. According to Breed, one of the things he is trying to implement for Samford is the use of surveillance cameras. "I firmly believe that surveillance cameras will help deter a lot of the property crimes that occur on campus," Breed said.

Along with surveillance, the university installed a text messaging alert service in the spring. This service will allow Campus Safety to communicate safety emergencies in the area to students as well as faculty and staff, via e-mail and cell phone.

Various changes have also been made concerning new divisions within campus safety. Breed said, "On June 1, 2007, I was able to add three new folks to my department. Two of those will be dedicated to a Campus Safety Traffic Division." Another change came in the form of the Dorm Patrol policies that are now being implemented. Breed was able to assign officers to work alongside members of Residence Life on a daily basis. This in turn provided a much safer environment in and around the dorm areas.

Some of the changes within the individual department came in the form of officer modification. Campus Safety went to new, more noticeable uniforms this past year as well as added self-defense training for students on campus. The free classes, taught and instructed by Campus Safety officers, give students the opportunities to learn important skills and maneuvers should they themselves ever be placed in a crisis situation. This new opportunity for students has been a tremendous way to make Samford a safer place.

The changes during the fall were not the only ones in the plans for Campus Safety. In the spring, Breed initiated a night-walk program. "The officers assigned to this program will meet monthly with Residence Life staff. During those monthly meetings, Campus Safety Officers and Residence Life staff will tour each residential area on-campus. During each tour, we will be looking for areas where we believe safety could be an issue for our students and members of the faculty and staff. If any areas are identified as a potential trouble spot, appropriate action will be taken," said Breed.

From changes within campus safety to defense courses helping students, all of the policy changes over the past year have put Samford one foot closer to being as safe as possible. When more improvements are made, the risk of danger drops dramatically. Campus Safety is doing all they can to make this university a safer place in an effort to avoid tragedies like Virginia-Tech and Northern Illinois.



# O'Henry's Coffee: Samford's New Addiction

Photos & Story By Jordan Jarvis

Spread: Austin Richardson

Nestled in the heart of Homewood, the original O'Henry's coffee shop has been a favorite among couples on dates, college students cramming for finals and high school students' post-Friday night football games for the past 14 years. Known for its chill yet eclectic atmosphere, O'Henry's is also loved for its fine coffee, specialty drinks and the warm chocolate chip cookies served daily at 3 p.m., on a "first come, first served" basis. So what was the attraction of bringing the locally owned brew of O'Henry's to Samford's big, busy campus?

In early 2006, Samford presented owners Randy and Mary Adamy with the idea of bringing the local flavor of O'Henry's to the caffeine-crazed college scene because of the many requests and desires Samford students expressed for an on-campus coffee shop. Since its opening in November 2006, O'Henry's at Samford has been met with nothing less than booming business and expressions of joy as students happily sipped lattes on their way to class or chatted with a professor over a blueberry scone. O'Henry's even allowed students to pay using their Samford ID card, leading many students to quickly discover a new source of draining all those food court dollars.

Samford students and faculty frequented O'Henry's weekly, if not daily. Freshman journalism/mass communications major Daniel Lee stated, "Pretty much everyday except Sundays, I got a dark roast cup of coffee or occasionally a cappuccino. I love coffee; it wakes me up but it's just too much trouble to make it in my room. Plus, I'm addicted!" Even students who had no love for or addiction to coffee have enjoyed the new addition to the food court, one being sophomore English major Christine Taylor. Though not a huge coffee fan, Taylor said, "I loved being able to come in and buy a scone and customize my own drink."

Operated by Samford's Campus Dining, the coffee was brought in fresh from Red Mountain Coffee Roasters, the same locally-owned company that supplies the downtown Homewood O'Henry's with its coffee. Samford's O'Henry's also offered flavored coffees, frozen drinks, fruit smoothies, fresh pastries and tasty desserts. It even sold its most popular gourmet coffee, including O'Henry's House Blend, Anniversary Blend and Christmas Blend, each by the pound, for students and faculty to enjoy the bold and unique flavors in the comfort of their own dorm room or home.

O'Henry's also provided Samford students with the opportunity to work as baristas. Senior history major Christina Mosley, who began working at O'Henry's shortly after it opened in 2006, said, "I liked getting to see all the different students and faculty and learning how to do latte art," as she displayed a latte with a white heart shaped in the foam. Latte art, come to find out, is the making of designs in the foam on the top of a latte, in which one either pours milk in the latte at certain angles to create such images as flowers and hearts, or uses an instrument of some kind to construct an image in the foam.

Senior economics major Stephen Gunter had also been employed at





O'Henry's since its opening. He said, "I really liked the hours, my boss and coworkers and getting to see so many people everyday." Students and faculty enjoyed being greeted by familiar, helpful and smiling faces everyday, whether simply casting a smile their way or helping customers make tough ordering decisions. "They're always personable enough to help me find exactly what I want," said Taylor.

As O'Henry's kept serving the Samford community, its popularity continued to grow. One could see O'Henry's cups everywhere from professors' hands to abandoned cups on the quad. And perhaps one of these days, all those who have no appreciation for that delectable little bean will surely see the light. Due to Gunter's distaste for coffee, when asked what his favorite, special drink was, he simply stated, "My coffee house specialty? Cleaning the creamer canisters." And with that, he returned to his rigorous work with a smirk on his face and a rag in his hand.



# Samford Goes Green

By Lindsey Vaughan

Photo Illustration and Spread: Austin Richardson

Green is more than just a color these days. This year, Samford made great strides in the global movement of "Going Green." Going Green involves any action that you take to help protect the environment. This can be anything from turning off a light you are not using to recycling an aluminum can. It is all about respecting your resources, conserving them and showing consideration for the world around you.

Sophomore journalism and mass communication major Lydia Hignite has a passion for environmental concerns. "I love the fact that Going Green is becoming popular. I think our culture is becoming aware of the harm we've done to the environment now that we are finally starting to see the effects," she said.

As the concern over things like the disappearing ozone and global warming grow, people are starting to take more notice of environmental issues. We are constantly learning new ways to help protect the environment and reduce the damage we cause to the earth. "We have now realized that we cannot keep going on this way, and we have to make some changes," Hignite said.

Making these changes is easier than you may think and is starting to become prevalent across Samford's campus. This year, students all over campus served as good examples of this fact. Many Samford students made an effort to Go Green in various ways. Students made efforts to take shorter showers, unplug electronic devices when they were not using them and walk to the Caf for dinner instead of driving. These ideas are just a few of the simple ways you can get involved in helping to care for the environment.

Samford even created a website, [www.samford.edu/gogreen](http://www.samford.edu/gogreen), as an aid to the Go Green initiative. The website offers links to other Green-related websites, detailed ways in which you can get involved in the movement and ways Samford has gotten involved. Samford has taken huge steps to help protect the environment in many different ways around campus.

Campus Dining is one of the areas on campus that took a big step toward Going Green this year. Campus Dining purchases all of its produce from local farmers, which reduces fuel used for transporting produce long distances. This year, Campus Dining also began to recycle all of its used cardboard material. Landscaping Services stopped its use of certain herbicides. Printing Services went entirely digital and discontinued its use of a great amount of chemicals used in printing. Campus Services began to use many Green cleaning products. Samford even installed water-saving washing machines in the laundry rooms across campus. The new washing machines use approximately 25% less water than standard washing machines.

One of the biggest ways in which Samford joined the Go Green movement this year was the addition of on-campus recycling bins, which are located behind the University Center. There are separate bins to collect paper, cardboard, aluminum and plastic. Senior English major Brandon Vaughan and his roommates had been separating recyclable products from their trash for a while. For a long time they had to take the products to a recycling center downtown. This proved to be very inconvenient and often their recycling would begin to pile up. The pileup sometimes caused them to end up throwing away many of their recyclable products. Vaughan and his roommates were very pleased with the new addition of the recycling bins behind the University Center.

"The new recycling bins on campus make it a lot easier for us to recycle because we don't have to make a special trip. I think this will encourage a lot of other students to start recycling, since they don't even have to leave campus to do it," Vaughan said. This is one of the easiest ways in which students can get involved with Samford's efforts to Go Green.

Going Green is a great initiative in which anyone can easily become involved. Samford has clearly realized this and is continually on the lookout for more opportunities to help protect the environment. Even a small effort to help can truly make an enormous difference. Samford students appreciate the changes that have been made on campus and are looking forward to those in the future. As Hignite said, "Samford is definitely taking a step in the right direction."



# Catching the Ear of God

On Monday nights at 9 p.m., Burns Hall room 204 became holy ground. Students entered the dimly-lit classroom, removed their shoes and quietly engaged in prayer while soft worship flowed from guitar strings. They weren't coming to fulfill a Convocation credit or because all their friends were there—they came because they were hungry to know God. The following night, another group of students from all different grades met together in Reid chapel, but this time, upbeat worship music poured from an iPod and was mingled with loud prayers of intercession for salvations and a desire to know God as students sat, paced or kneeled.

"My heart for this campus is to see people come to a true revelation of the knowledge of God," said sophomore communication studies major Stephen Williams. "Only then can people have a true relationship." Many groups like these found their way onto Samford's campus, bearing no specific affiliation with a campus ministry or organization, yet made one thing clear—the time has come to pray.

In the past couple of years, sporadic praying communities have sprung-up all over Samford's campus, in addition

*Photos & Story By Jordan Jarvis*

*Spread: Austin Richardson*

to already established campus prayer events such as morning prayer in Hedges Chapel or global prayer through University Ministries. But many students on Samford's campus seemed to be crying out for more—more encounter with God, more changed lives, more passion to know Jesus and be transformed into his likeness. So what sparked this growing number of Samford students that they would suddenly send a mass text message to inform friends about a prayer meeting on the quad or even turn a casual hang-out time into a fervent prayer meeting? And why were they willing to sacrifice study sessions, hang-out time with friends and sometimes even sleep to pray? "I consider everything a loss compared to the surpassing greatness of knowing Christ Jesus, my Lord, for whose sake I have lost all things," said sophomore history major Ellen Davis, quoting Philippians 3:8. "We are hungering after the Lord and nothing compares to that."

The actual prayer meetings themselves were each unique in size, style, and length, but all were pursuing to know God's heart. Many students who lived together on campus would regularly gather together as a suite to encourage one another



in the Lord and pray for their peers for a few minutes before class. Some gathered in the food court certain mornings of the week to plead before God for revival to come to the campus. Other groups met in classrooms and interceded for the nations and missionaries late into the night. And the beauty of this whole thing is that an exact number could not be placed on how many groups there actually were. There were countless other clusters of people, big and small, gathering together and offering up prayers for salvation, revival and true intimacy with Jesus.

Another unique aspect to these sporadic prayer meetings was the sense of community the participants felt with one another. According to Davis, "Real church is happening right here, and I love it." Sophomore international relations major Janell King felt similar to Davis. "In our prayer gatherings, there was a strong sense of community. It was so encouraging to meet with fellow brothers and sisters in Christ and have conversations with God about anything and everything. Those prayer gatherings are transforming the lives of the students and faculty here at Samford. It's transforming Birmingham. It's affecting the lives of those globally."

There is indeed a global movement that is taking place among young adults and especially those on college campuses around the United States. Amongst the most entertained and material generation, large numbers of students have refused to be fascinated and fulfilled by earthly pleasures and desires, and they have turned their faces towards Jesus, buying-in to his ways and finding their fulfillment in him alone.

Naturally, one will always do something if he or she believes it will work, and according to this growing number of praying students, the same went for prayer. "My greatest desire is that Samford students would see that God would do far more than we could ask or imagine, we just have to believe," said Davis. For these students, prayer was more than just a once a week activity that they did to feel comforted or out of some obligation, but it became a lifestyle. King said, "There is power and strength and love when the body of Christ comes together. The Spirit moves and things happen!"

Several students on campus planned to rally as many of these independent prayer groups together to have twenty-four hours of unbroken prayer on campus in the fall. "My desire is for intimacy with Jesus, intercession and for my heart to be set ablaze for loving people," said Williams. And as more and more prayer springs up at Samford University, there is a sure sense that God is moving and hearts are, indeed, being set ablaze.





# Why I Chose Samford

by Matt Robertson

Photo Design and Spread: Austin Richardson

A small liberal arts college nestled away in Birmingham, yet known throughout the nation, enrolling about 4,000 students each year. So why in the world did all these people from across all parts of the nation and even the world choose Samford? The following are responses from various students with various backgrounds and various interests. This is why they chose Samford:

Steven Williams, an independent sophomore, said. "My sister went here, and the city of Birmingham was new and away from my hometown of Knoxville. It was a new challenge with new people, and I fit really well here."

Andy King, a sophomore basketball player from Omaha, Nebraska, said, "I really chose Samford because I could play ball here, but the girl to guy ratio isn't so bad either."

Gaby Bermudez, also a sophomore basketball player from Miami, Florida, said, "Samford gave me the awesome opportunity to meet people outside the Hispanic community."

Luke Swilley, a Georgia native, chose Samford, "because it came highly recommended, and the cafeteria food is amazing."

Cameron Campbell, a Hoover Alabama native, said he chose Samford because, "It's a great school with a great academic reputation. It has also been a great school for the community of Birmingham."

David Presley, a Cincinnati, Ohio native, decided to travel the many miles to Samford because he believes, "It is a great environment, not too big, not too small, and it's a place I saw myself leaving in four maybe five years as a better person."

Kendall Baker, another sophomore Birmingham native, chose Samford because, "I was going to either do missions or school straight out of high school. My parents made me choose school, so I chose Samford because I wanted to go where I didn't know anyone. All my friends went to Alabama or Auburn, and I wanted to start fresh."

Dani Johns, a sophomore from Chicago, chose Samford through lots of prayer. "My twin sister and I wanted to go to school together, and we really tried to give it up to God. This is where we believe we are supposed to be," Johns said.

Maddy Walker, a junior from Fayetteville, Georgia, said, "This is really the only place I could get in, so...yeah."

Jesse Walsh, a junior from Orlando, Florida, said, "Samford was the perfect place for me because I felt like I fit in here. I did not want to be some number at a huge school. I really felt like Samford provided me the opportunity to make this my school and could give me a personal feel in the classrooms and with friends. I felt like I could build relationships better at Samford than at a bigger school."

The reasons why this small sample of Samford students chose this university are simple. However, each had their own particular desires, goals, thoughts and plans that they considered before making their decision. The most interesting thing about this group is how Samford provided opportunities for these people to connect. Samford brought them all together from across the nation and they'll always have that one thing in common; they were all at one time a Samford student.

# Brock Brings New Business

By Matt Robertson

Photos: Sarah Andrews

Spread: Austin Richardson

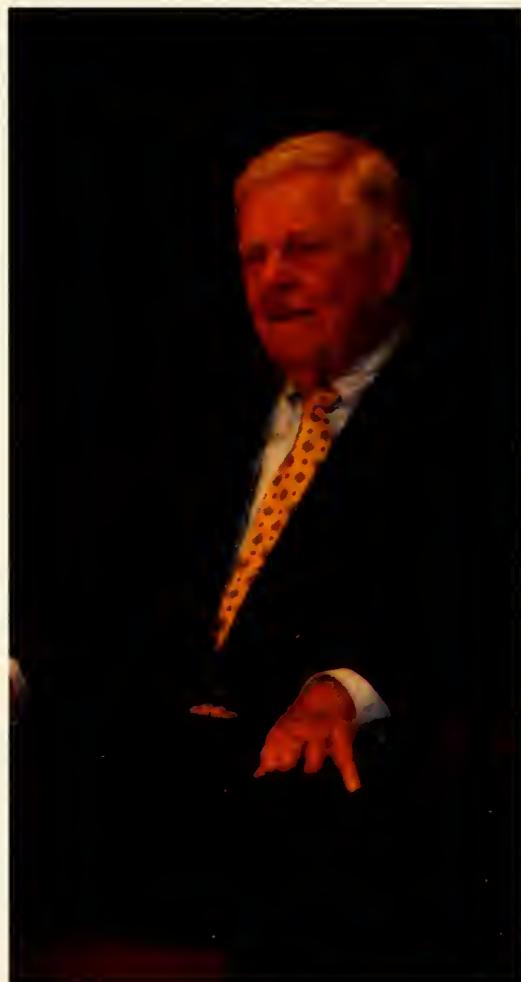
This past year, the Samford University business program has undergone many changes. The greatest change within the program was the renaming of the school and the contributions from the Brock family. On December 4, 2007, the Samford business program became The Brock School of Business in honor of banking legend Harry B. Brock Jr. Because Mr. Brock is a respected individual within many business circles, contributions and a new title provide Samford with greater recognition and exposure throughout the state and even nation.

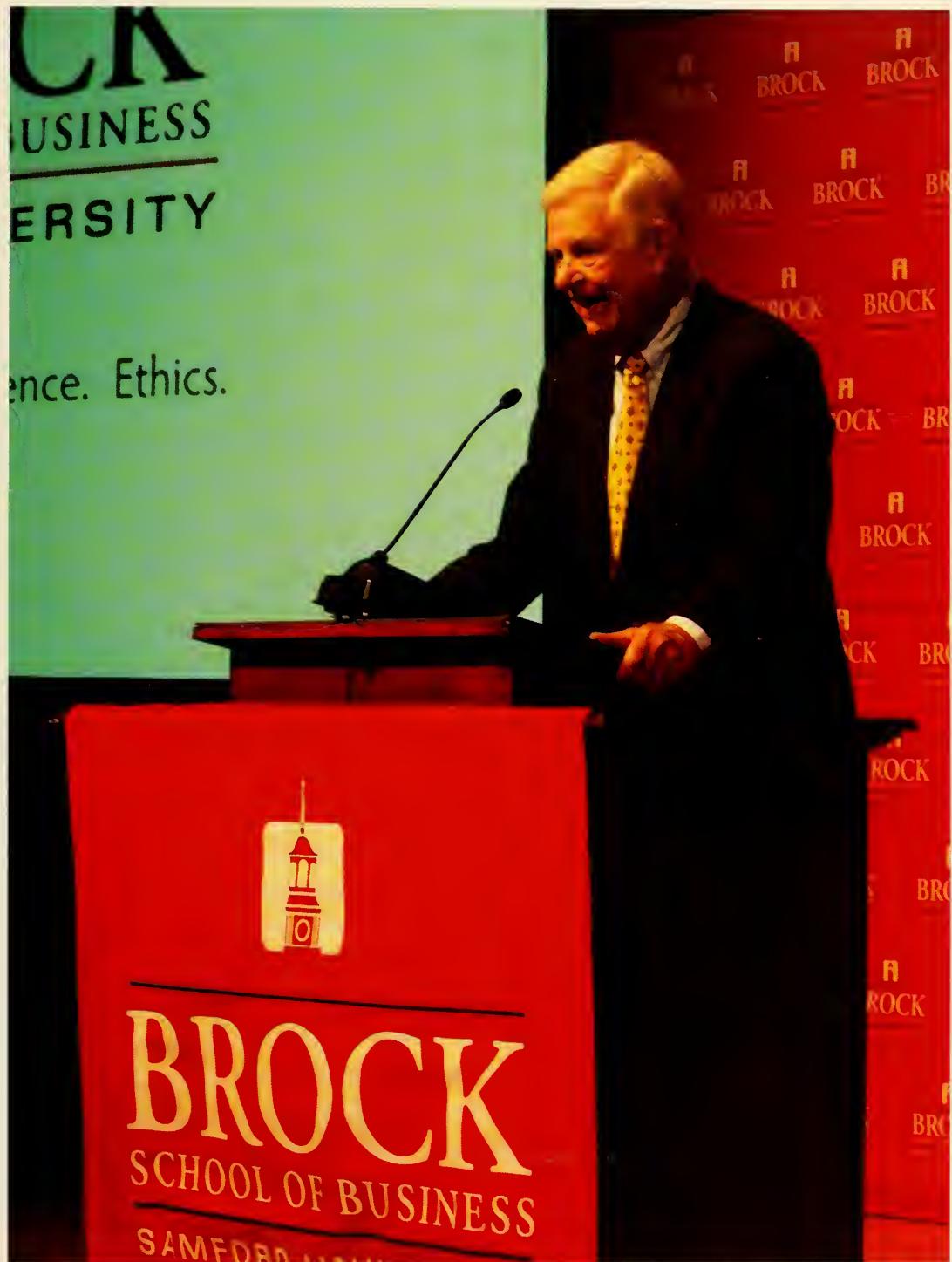
The main goal and vision of The Brock School of Business is a focus on developing entrepreneurship skills for students to use in the future. Currently, the Brock School of Business has 23 faculty members, but hopes to hire three more full-time faculty members, specifically for the entrepreneurship program. Building practical skills within the program that students can use to start their own businesses is what entrepreneurship at Brock is all about.

Starting new businesses is not the only new thing that has been going on at The Brock School of Business this past year. An endowment program started by Mr. Brock himself has been provided to allow future opportunities for many Samford students. Mr. Brock hopes that one day the endowment will yield over \$100 million. Trustees involved in the business school believe that once the \$100 million is attained, Samford could be considered in the top 25 of other higher business institutions in the entire nation. For a private Christian institution, this progress is an exceptional accomplishment.

During a business convocation at the beginning of this year, President Westmoreland commended Mr. Brock for his involvement concerning the new changes. "Harry Brock is synonymous with Alabama business and banking, and fortunately for us, with Samford University for more than 50 years," said Westmoreland. "He is the consummate example of the entrepreneurial spirit and ethical business practice, and it is fitting that his name will be affiliated with Samford's Christian mission."

The changes within the business program are bringing Samford into a new season regarding the program. The changes give Samford a new look and a very positive future within the school of business. It will be interesting to see where these new developments take the school over the next few decades and the many prospective opportunities that Samford students will be able to accomplish.





# Famous People from Samford

By Caroline Poole

Photo: Bob Miller

Spread: Austin Richardson

Most Samford students are very familiar with the problem of having to explain to people where exactly they go to school. "No, no I go to SAMford not STANford." It is easy to think that other schools have it easy because they can say, "I go to Bear Bryant's school" or "I go to Charles Barkley's school." However, Samford students might have it easier than they think. The next time someone asks, "Who goes to Samford?" here is a list of impressive names you can drop.

Cortland Finnigan is a cornerback for the Tennessee Titans and a former Samford football player. During his senior year at Samford, Finnigan was named First Team All-American and was one of the all-time best OVC players. He was an education major and a family studies minor. Professors remember him as "just an all around good guy." If this isn't enough to impress, just tell people that on September 16, 2007, he intercepted a pass thrown by none other than Super Bowl MVP Peyton Manning.

The award winning band Little Big Town has toured all over the world and released multiple CDs. Their songs are played on the radio, and any country music fan can easily pick them out because of their intricate harmonies. One might be surprised to know that Karen Fairchild and Kimberly Schlapman, the two female members of the band, started singing together during their days right here at Samford University. If it had not been for Samford, then there never would have been a Little Big Town.

If people still need convincing, ask them if they have a sense of humor. If they do, tell them to check out Tony Hale on the TV show *Arrested Development*. Hale is a graduate of Samford and an alum of Sigma Chi. He has appeared or is going to appear in over 30 productions and is the proud father of a little girl.

Everyone loves a good chicken sandwich from Chik-fil-a. Thanks to Truett Cathy, the world has come to appreciate a good piece of chicken. While he's not a Samford alum, several of his descendants have attended the university, and he himself has been a frequent visitor. He has spoken at several events and has become quite the fixture around campus. Even when he's not around in person, he's not far from students' minds as the delicious aromas of Chik-fil-a fill the food court.

So now when people say, "Why Samford?" there are several answers to help clue them in. Samford may be small, but quite a few influential people have left these gates. Be proud of being a Bulldog, and who knows, maybe someday you'll be on the famous people page in *Entre Nous*.



Courtesy of Tony Hale

# The Artistic Side of Samford

By Jordan Jarvis

Photos: Kyle Mykitta, Megan Marr and Bob Miller

Spread: Austin Richardson

"Filmmaking is a chance to live many lifetimes." -Robert Altman



Samford University has not only attracted, but produced great artists who contribute to both the Samford and Birmingham communities. As technology is rising and changing, the demand for quality art and graphics remains the same, but has conveniently become accessible to just about anyone. Overnight, amateur film makers have become known worldwide through YouTube. The affordability and easy use of digital cameras and Photoshop has suddenly made everyone a great photographer. Many students here at Samford possess these extraordinary art talents. Here are three student's stories who are working their way into the Birmingham art community.

Do you ever wonder who is behind the video productions of Step Sing and Miss Samford? Or how about the maker of the creative images that appear on screen during these popular Samford events? Well, wonder no longer ladies and gentlemen, as you are introduced to senior English major Kyle Mykitta. He has played a crucial and creative role in the Samford community in assisting with video production, using both skill and excellence.

Although Kyle Mykitta has grown to be a popular name associated with media images at Samford, his interest and talent doesn't end there. Mykitta also enjoys making films, doing 3-D modeling and even painting and drawing. "I like to get my hands into as many mediums as possible," said Mykitta. "For the most part, the things I do are somewhat dark. I love contrast, and my videos tend to have a great deal of that in them." Mykitta has been working in video production for the past six years and 3-D modeling for the past two years.

Beyond the Samford community, Mykitta's work is also making headway into the Birmingham community. He has

already entered one piece into the Birmingham Sidewalk Film Festival, an annual event that encourages amateur filmmaking in the Birmingham community, and has also had the opportunity to assist a local church in their video needs.

When asked where he sees the future of video production, Mykitta said, "I think there is definitely a future for the medium, especially with YouTube and Google video on the rise. It's put production into the hands of the untrained individuals and given students like myself a way to express themselves without breaking the bank."

For senior graphic design major Megan Marr, an old, empty milk jug or a discarded Pringles can are not just pieces of unwanted trash, but works of art waiting to be uncovered. Though skilled in both painting and photography, Marr mainly specializes in recycled folk art.

"I seek to take items that are normally discarded and make them into something useful to society, even if it doesn't look like something artsy," said Marr. "For instance, I make planters out of milk jugs, water bottles and anything else I can get my hands on. I enjoy creating things for the outdoors like signs with encouraging images or words. I'm very interested in recycling and reusing, and I attempt to always look at things in order to find their hidden usability."

Marr has also made such items as coffee cup holders out of empty Pringles cans. And in a time when so many are "going green," Marr attempts to help preserve the environ-



"This world is but a canvas to our imagination." -Henry David Thoreau

ment. "The temporality of recycled art is what inspires me; I feel that my experience as an artist has taught me that often art is something cherished, taken care of, and because of that, sometimes not experienced as it should be. With recycled art, no one feels guilty using it or allowing it to be destroyed. You just throw it away and make something else," said Marr.

Though Marr enjoys this medium of art at the moment, she does admit that her "taste in styles is constantly changing." Marr's art has also been introduced to the Birmingham community. She participated in Artwalk in 2006 for photography and had her photographs displayed in the 5 Points Starbucks in Birmingham, where her recycled art is currently displayed.

"When that trend is replaced by another, I don't think that my recycled art will be as popular, but I will continue to do it and maybe it will remind people that even if being 'green' is no longer trendy, they should still be concerned and do what they can to recycle and reuse," said Marr.

Many people around Samford are familiar with the face of Bob Miller, or at least the name. This senior graphic design major was no exception to the age where practically every kid owned a plastic, disposable camera. "I've been looking at compositions my whole life. I've pressed shutters and buttons on disposable plastic things since childhood," said Miller. But it wasn't until about two years ago that Miller even began to intentionally pursue photography as an art.

Using both film and digital photography, Miller has learned that good photography comes not only from training one's eye to see life through the lens of a camera, but it also requires motivation and creativity. "Photography requires you to get up and go. You can't make compelling pictures when you don't look for compelling subjects," said Miller.

As he has become more involved with the Birmingham Art Scene/Collective, a group started by a former Samford student who strives to unite and showcase local art and talent, Miller had the opportunity to display three large photographs at Matthew's Bar and Grill on Morris Avenue in Birmingham. But photography has not only served as a creative outlet for Miller; it is becoming a means of telling the stories of those who are overlooked in society. "On a deeper note, I guess you could say it's impossible for the kind of artwork I do not to be richly grounded in the community. I'm into documenting things, but not just things, more so people," said Miller. "I want to help people understand people better as I want to understand them and myself. I've found that the discovery process is much more vivid when captured through a lens."

Miller has documented mission trips and also recently traveled to Kenya to photograph the political turmoil taking place. "The idea that one can capture the essence of a person, a mood, a setting, etc. in a single moment and a single composition is beyond fascinating to me, and there is still so much to learn," said Miller.



"To me, photography is the simultaneous recognition, in a fraction of a second, of the significance of an event." -Henri Cartier-Bresson

# Bubble Pop: Loved Ones at War

By Megan Christians

Photos: Scott Fisk

Spread: Austin Richardson

Two thousand miles from Birmingham is a land of vast, barren desert, a stark difference from the Samford quad. It is also a war zone. As college students, most of us forget this fact. Unless you watch the news or read the paper, it does not affect you. But there are students and even some faculty on campus who have close ties to the war.

Junior nursing major Lauren Heinz is reminded every day of the realities of war when she looks at a photograph of her boyfriend. Clay is a medic in the National Guard currently stationed in Iraq. His platoon protects semi trucks carrying supplies to and from different cities and bases across the country. These "missions" can last anywhere from two to six days.



"I get to talk to him everyday, except when he is gone," Heinz said. Clay recently left for Iraq and Heinz got to say goodbye to him with her family and friends standing beside her for support. "My sister and best friends surprised me at the airport when I was returning from saying goodbye to him," Heinz said. "It was such a relief to see them there when I got off the plane. They also took me out to dinner to help me keep my mind off of the day."

Back at Samford, Heinz's sorority sisters have stepped in to continue the encouragement. "A couple of my sisters that I don't even know very well have sent me emails and letters with uplifting scripture verses," Heinz said.

For junior graphic design major Jessica Snow the war tells a different story. "I had a friend from high school join the military and was quickly sent overseas," Snow said. "He went over to serve and never came home." Twenty-year-old Stephen Johnson, a marine, was killed while conducting combat operations against enemy forces on October 8, 2006. "Our high school had a special dedication ceremony by honoring him on the 'Wall of Heroes,'" Snow said.

If you have ever taken a class with art professor Scott Fisk, you might not realize his connections with Iraq. Fisk went over in 2004 as a photographer in the army. He mostly stays quiet about his experience, only occasionally will he mention the equipment used as an educational tool for his students.

These stories tend to stand alone on Samford's campus where a majority of people come from the same background with similar values. However, if the subject is war, a few students are not so conforming. "I don't think the US has had a good reason to enter into a war since World War II," senior German and Spanish major Stephen Black said. "If they reinstated the draft for a war that I considered we had no reason to be in, and I would be drafted, I would seriously consider leaving the country."

For the most part, students have been considerate for those personally affected by the war, and the experiences have altered the lives of these young individuals. "I don't necessarily feel as if I've 'broken out of the bubble,' but my world has gone from my family, friends and school to the reality that there is a war going on overseas that I think people tend to forget about on a day to day basis." Heinz said.



# Presidential campaign sparks political interest on campus

By Lindsey Vaughan

Photo Illustrations and Spread: Austin Richardson

On the brink of one of the most interesting and undoubtedly, one of the most exciting presidential elections in American history, it looks like more college students are getting involved than ever before. Students seem to be excited about this history making campaign. For the first time in American history, not only do we have a black presidential candidate, but we have a woman running for president too. Along with these monumental changes, new ideas and issues are springing up all over the campaign trail, and students seem attracted to the possibility of major changes being made in our government.

Some Samford students took significant roles in the presidential campaign this year. Junior political science and communication studies major Erin Ramsey was very involved with the Barack Obama campaign. A strong Obama supporter, Ramsey was eager to get involved with his campaign, but wasn't sure how until she was presented with an opportunity through a friend.

Ramsey began as a volunteer at the campaign office in downtown Birmingham, doing things such as making phone calls and passing out information door-to-door. As a result of her commitment to volunteer work, Ramsey quickly became a paid staff member of the Obama campaign. She then moved on to doing things such as fundraising, coordinating events and even occasionally traveling with the campaign.

In an effort to spread the word about Obama, Ramsey also helped organize a bake sale on campus benefiting his campaign. "Obama is aiming to make a change and his message is contagious. It's something you want to be a part of, and you want to do all you can to help," she said. Ramsey is just one of the increasing number of college students seeking to become involved with politics in order to see the changes they'd like to see happen. "It's important to get involved because we always gripe about the way things are, but don't do anything about it. We are the next generation, so it's our responsibility to be an active part of it," Ramsey said.





Senior journalism and mass communication major Caroline Bell is another Samford student who has decided to make a difference by getting involved with political life. Bell has been working with the Republican Party as an intern for a year and will be on staff with the party as the Convention Coordinator when she graduates. The position will put her in charge of the delegates' trip to the Republican National Convention in Minneapolis-Saint Paul in September.

Bell found out about the opportunity to become involved with the Republican Party through a friend in the political science department. Working with the party has been an incredible opportunity for Bell. "I have learned so much about the political system," she said. Bell has also had the opportunity to meet important political figures such as Alabama's Governor Bob Riley and even President George W. Bush.

Not only are students becoming actively involved with the presidential campaign, they are also getting excited about voting. Voting is a simple and very accessible way to get involved with the political process, and evidence suggests that college students all across America are thinking about voting more than ever before.

Samford was even fortunate enough to have Republican presidential candidate Mike Huckabee visit campus this year. On January 26, Huckabee visited the Brock Recital Hall and spoke about his presidential platform. The visit garnered a lot of media attention and undoubtedly attracted Samford students' attention to the presidential campaign.

Senior theatre major Maria Williams acknowledges that our nation seems to be at a turning point and is looking forward to exercising her right to vote once again. "I'll be voting because I want to use the freedom I'm given as a citizen of the United States to do so," she said.

One of the reasons so many more college students seem to be interested in voting this year is because of the current state of our nation and the future they see themselves quickly becoming a part of. "It's important for college students to vote now because whoever is elected is going to determine the direction this country goes in, and this is going to be an important factor as students go out into the work force," sophomore business management major Walt Reed said. As people all across America seem to understand what a difference can be made with just one vote, college students all over the nation seem to be following the trend too.

The closer we get to the end of our college years, the more we are forced to think about our futures, and becoming involved in politics is just one way to actively take part in shaping those futures. During this exciting year in politics, many Samford students jumped at the opportunity to get involved. Numerous students have been eager to take advantage of the chance to be a part of the political process, and nearing the dawn of one of America's most exciting presidential elections in history, even more students have joined them. As Ramsey said, "Nobody's going to make our future better for us except ourselves."

# PLEDGE



Step Sing





# Greek Weekend: ATL Style

By Ashlyn Stallings

Photos: Courtesy of PHC and Austin Richardson

Spread: Austin Richardson

The road from Birmingham to Atlanta saw plenty of Samford bumper stickers one September afternoon. Greeks and non-Greeks escaped the Birmingham scene for a weekend to enjoy Atlanta and the Samford-Georgia-Tech football game.

Thursday evening, Greeks filed into Brock forum. A celebration honoring McElwain Elementary tutoring and service offered an opportunity for the Interfraternity Council and Panhellenic Council to highlight philanthropic efforts of the Greek community. The connection between Samford students and McElwain children has been a three year relationship. A video showing the involvement of Samford Greeks in the elementary students' lives was shown. Mingling in Ben Brown Plaza with desserts and refreshments wrapped up the event.

"It was a good opportunity for freshmen and newcomers to get to know Greeks and ask about our involvement with McElwain," said senior IFC President Rob Howell. "The event was different from past events. It was more of a chance to publicize on Samford's campus what we do for the elementary school."

After Friday classes, the departure for Atlanta began. Homes of Atlanta-born students, hotels and even understanding grandmothers were willing to put up college students for a couple of nights' sleep. Samford students primped and prepared for a night-on-the-town, then made their way to the Greek-sponsored party.

Beneath the bright lights of a Southern metropolis, trendy Atlantic Station served as the party location for the Greek band party. The bustling community's stunning architecture and row after row of restaurants and shops provided an enticing backdrop, as well-dressed students donned "Go Greek" buttons instead of their letters. TWELVE Atlantic Station and Ballroom was a spectacular venue for the party, which was an opportunity for freshmen to interact with Greeks before recruitment began.

The mixed repertoire of Bobby Moore & the Rhythm Aces drew over 570 attendees to the dance floor. Classic hits were played between

old-school sounding renditions of current rap songs. Refreshments and tables were available for those who were less confident in their dance skills or just worn out from too much two-stepping.

"We saw a really great turnout, especially for freshmen," Howell said. "That's part of why we do it." After the party, students climbed into cars and hit the Atlanta Perimeter to find something else to try.

The Varsity Restaurant in downtown Atlanta was packed Saturday at noon. In a sea of Georgia-Tech black and gold were Samford students decked in red and blue. On the trek to Bobby Dodd stadium, the Samford Fight Song could be heard. A pep-rally hosted by the Samford Athletic Department and encouraged by the Greek community was getting started. The

Samford Marching Band, cheerleaders and Spike the Bulldog geared up fans for a rousing game. Finally, the Samford Bulldogs stormed onto historic Grant Field to show the improvements they had made as a team in a year's time.

Back at the manicured Samford campus on Sunday afternoon, students filled Reid Chapel for a Greek-led worship service. Caleb Foust of Sigma Phi Epsilon presented a message, as students from other organizations participated. Madeleine Mula of Chi Omega and Todd Oakley of Sigma Chi read Scripture. Pi Kappa Phi's C.G. Covey read the Lord's Prayer, and Sigma Chi's Ryan Fitzgerald led students in singing and worship. Samford Greeks refocused and prepared for another busy week after a leisurely diversion to Atlanta.



# IFC and PHC Push Forward with New Faces

by *Rachel Long and Jessica Casto*

Photos: Courtesy of PHC and IFC

Spread: *Austin Richardson*

Samford University Interfraternity Council (IFC) and the Panhellenic Council (PHC) serve as the umbrella organizations governing and supporting the university's Greek life.

The Panhellenic Council at Samford University is the unifying and coordinating body of the seven national sororities on campus and is composed of two women from each sorority. The Panhellenic Council and IFC are responsible for promoting the scholarship, philanthropy and safety of the Greek community as a whole.

The 2007 PHC executive council members included President Kristan Burson, VP of Membership Recruitment Jessica Casto, VP of Rho Gammas Mary Katherine Ezell and VP of Administration Betsie Boggs, as well as the secretary, treasurer and chairs for scholarship, social, service, judicial, programming, public relations and Greek awards.

On the other side of the Greek fence, Rob Howell served as President of IFC, Parker Gilbert as VP, Hamlin Caldwell as Secretary and Josh Senn as Treasurer. The rest of the council was composed of various representatives from each fraternity that served in a specific chair position.

Together, PHC and IFC worked really hard to provide activities and programs to benefit the Greeks, the campus and the community. They sponsored projects and events such as: Greek Weekend, men's and women's recruitment, Crawfish Boil, concerts, philanthropic opportunities such as tutoring at McElwain Elementary and educational programs such as the Anti-hazing and drug information sessions.

This year's IFC and PHC officers have taken on extra responsibility and have practiced great teamwork this semester during the absence of former Greek Life Director, Frank Parsons. After announcing his resignation at Greek Awards in spring 2007, many wondered what would happen with recruitment and Greek life as a whole.

Panhellenic member Natalie Jayne described this year as a transition year. "We have had to overcome many challenges. With a new advisor comes new expectations and a new way of doing things," she said.

"Panhellenic has pulled together as a council and embraced the changes. Frank will always hold a special place in our hearts, and we are so appreciative for all he did for the Greeks while he was at Samford," said Jayne.

Howell also said that Parsons' presence has been missed, but that interim Greek Life Director, Jennifer Dunn Hall has served the community well. "She has done a tremendous job with Greek life this year," he said.

Both IFC and PHC have a lot to be proud of, especially the women whose recruitment this year was one of the most successful recruitments in history.

VP of Membership Recruitment, Jessica Casto said, "This year's recruitment was definitely a challenge with the new advisor transition. But JD and every girl on the council worked really hard, and as a result of our hard work, recruitment numbers were the best they've been in a long time."

"This is the first year in Samford history that every sorority made quota on bid day," said Casto, "and I think that's just a reflection of the amazing women that make up these sororities."

From social functions to service, the Greeks at Samford do it all, and it wouldn't be possible without the help from the people who make up the Interfraternity Council and the Panhellenic Council.





# Searching for Sisters: A Rush Diary

*By Emily Hart*

*Photos: Becky Ellenberger*

*Spread: Austin Richardson*

It was just before 6 p.m. when the teacher let us out of aerobics class. My friends and I had exactly five minutes to get from Bashinsky Field House to Reid Chapel for the first recruitment meeting. As my friends and I stumbled through the front doors of Reid, we were soaking wet from the rain and smelly in sweaty, workout clothes. We laughed as we saw every other girl in the chapel dressed to the nines, while we felt nasty and unpleasant to be around.

The meeting began and we were given bags with our recruitment t-shirts, name tags, a pen and a "Go Greek" button. After going over the rules and regulations of recruitment, my friends and I wished each other good luck and went our

separate ways to our Rho Gam groups. In our groups, we discussed the details of rush: where we were to meet every day and what to wear to each party. Lauren, my leader, calmed our anxious nerves as she answered all of our questions and addressed our concerns. That night, my roommate and I had friends over to help us choose our outfits for the philanthropy parties, theme parties and preference day.

I woke up on Friday, and all I could think about was recruitment and what I was going to face that evening. Little did I know that I would have a fairy-tale rush story. The whole day, I made eye-contact with various sorority girls and tried to assess if they had seen my picture and what they had

heard or thought of me. The school day was finally over, and it was time for me to begin recruitment and attend my first philanthropy party.

I walked into sorority quad where lines were forming in front of each house. It was about five minutes before I was to go into my first party, when girls inside starting banging on windows, chanting and singing sorority songs. My mouth, I am sure, was hanging wide open; I did not know what was going on or what I had gotten myself into. There was one minute left and every girl in west campus started to count down. Ten, nine, eight... Before I knew it, I was walking into my first party.

I entered the house and immediately a girl whom I had never seen before, placed her hand on my back and led me into their chapter room. The room was uniquely decorated from the ceiling to the very chair I sat in. I had to keep in mind that after recruitment was over, the decorations would not be there; it was the girls I had to fall in love with. I had great conversations with all the girls I met. The presentation about their philanthropy stole my heart, and they sang songs about who they were and what their sorority meant to them. My time in that house was up, and I was led out of the house by another one of the amazing girls in the sorority. But the night wasn't over; I had two more houses to go to. By that point, I knew the drill and was no longer anxious about the process. I was excited and just could not wait to enter another house.

Saturday was the last day of philanthropy parties, and I only had two parties left to attend. After the philanthropy parties ended, I assessed my experience at each of the five houses and voted on my top three. Sunday afternoon, I wondered if my Rho Gam leader would come to tell me that I had been cut. Instead, I gladly rejoined my group and received my schedule to see which theme parties I would attend. To my surprise, the houses I was invited back to were the exact houses I had chosen as my top three.

In utter shock and excitement, I walked over to west campus and stood in anticipation of what had been planned for Theme Night. The sororities I preferred were starting to become clear and I knew exactly which house I wanted to be in. I literally skipped to Divinity Hall to place my votes for my top two houses.

Monday morning, I woke up and glanced over at the clock. It was 7:31a.m., and my Rho Gam had not visited me with any bad news. I was home free and would return to at least one house for pref night! The day passed at lightning speed and the information in class truly did go in one ear and out the other. Finally, it was time to start Pref Night. I met my Rho Gam group in front of Vail. All the girls in my group were overjoyed but nervously quiet on the way to dinner. I opened my slip of paper and I was amazed when I saw that I was invited back to not one, but both of my top choice

houses! All I wanted to do was skip dinner in the Caf and head straight to west campus. My Rho Gam leader informed us that tonight would be very different; there would be no banging on windows and doors, and there definitely would be no screaming. She said one thing I will never forget: "If you are going to cry during rush, this will be the night." I just laughed and blew it off. I thought to myself that would definitely not be me; after all, I am not emotional and rarely cry. Was I in for a surprise!

Going into the parties that night, I knew what sorority I wanted to be a part of and couldn't wait to visit those precious girls again. The first house I visited that night was the house I truly knew I wanted to be in, and it became even clearer that night. As I walked into the house, all of the girls were dressed in black, and the room was covered with flowers. A special someone, the very first girl that rushed me in this house, placed her hand on my back and sat me down. As I looked across the room, I saw two girls holding each other's hands, crying, as they heard the words spoken by their fellow sisters. It was a moving night. With that special girl's hands on my shoulder, I realized once again that I did not want to leave that house but wanted to stay there forever.

Next, the older girls led us to tables around the chapter room and that special girl began encouraging me and telling me about the qualities she saw in me, and I just knew it was coming: the tears started rolling down my cheeks. When she left, we hugged and I felt as though we had been childhood friends and already knew everything about each other—it was a feeling of belonging. Different girls came and talked to me that night, confirming once again that I wanted to be nowhere else but right there in that house. After my second and final party, we walked in silence to Divinity Hall where I had to choose the sorority I wanted to be in. I could not wait. The decision was so clear; it took about three seconds before I was out of that room and dying for the results of the next day.

Tuesday was extremely slow. I was in classes until 3 p.m., not leaving much time to think about rush. That evening, I went to meet my Rho Gam group. When I walked out of Vail Lobby and saw the girls in my group, I felt nervous and began to wonder if things had panned out the way I had hoped. We walked into a packed Bashinsky Field House. All along the indoor track, parents, friends, and students had come to watch Squeal. Each sorority was grouped together chanting their sorority name and simply overflowing with excitement. After a short program and the reveal of the Rho Gams' affiliations, it was time. I quickly opened my envelope. I read over it several times trying to comprehend what it said and finally, I saw the words I wanted to see, ALPHA DELTA PI! I didn't know what to do, so I grabbed my purse and just started running over to the ADPi girls and was bombarded with hugs. Alpha Delta Pi was my new home!



# Food, Friends and Frats: A Rush Diary

*By Calvin Fields*

*Photos: Becky Ellenberger*

*Spread: Laura Armstrong*

Coming to Samford, I knew little of fraternity life and its complexity. My mother had been a Chi Omega at the University of Kentucky, but my only way of knowing this was from the old wooden sorority paddle I saw in times of unrest. I had heard some stories from friends who pledged at large state schools, but on a whole, I was clueless. I knew I wanted to rush because I favored the thought of a close brotherhood, but I was naive to what rush even meant.

I asked every person I met for the first few weeks of school their opinions on fraternities and the reputation each one held. I was in search of information, and as I went to pre-rush events and met the men in each fraternity, I discovered the quality of people in the fraternities. My newfound friends on my hall and I discussed this almost nightly. We tried to discern what was pretense and what was genuine sincerity. As a whole, we were somewhat confused about where we hoped for a bid and very much open-minded.

The first night of rush included a lot of handshaking and smiling; it seemed like a façade, but you can't expect much more with a limited time allotted at each house. The next night, we were allowed to go to any house we wanted. The evening was spent getting to know the brothers in each fraternity. I remember saying my name and hometown for what seemed like a million times and meeting more people in one night than I had in my whole life. Walking towards Smith Hall afterwards, I had narrowed my fraternity list down to two.

The next night was Brother's Night In, an invitation-only-event with good food and more conversation. I walked to my Samford mailbox that afternoon and pulled out my invitations for Brother's Night In. I was pleased to find that my top two choices had invited me back to their houses. I left hungry that evening, hoping to discover which of the two fraternities I would join. I had more meaningful conversations with the brothers and asked some harder questions about their organization. When it was time to leave, I left with a group of friends to go back and talk about our experiences.

We went to a friend's room to discuss our feelings on rush and the different fraternities we spent time at. We decided that regardless of where we pledged, our friendships must stay intact. We voiced support for each others' decisions and prayed for guidance together as we prepared to pledge. Most of us left the gathering with our minds set on one fraternity, myself included.

The next day, I checked my mailbox to look for an invite to Brother's Night Out, the final night of rush. I was excited to see I got invited back to the house I wanted, along with many of my friends. We carpooled to an alumni's house for more discussion and food, apparently a reoccurring theme of rush. I was able to talk to many of the brothers I hadn't met yet. They made me feel even more at peace, affirming my decision to be there. The brothers told us the plans for the next day, Walkout Day, and what to do if we got a bid.

On Walkout Day, dressed in coat and tie, my friends and I signed our bids, officially becoming Sigma Chi pledges. Our pledge class began the journey towards brotherhood. I was no longer clueless, but knew the ins and outs of rush, looking at the journey ahead and excited because of the fellow men standing next to me in coat and tie.

# What it means to be Greek

By Sloan Schmidtke

Photos and Spread: Austin Richardson

I went through rush pretty much for the same reason everyone does—to meet people. Not to mention, if I pledged, I would become the fourth generation of Greek women from my family—no pressure.

Looking back over the past year-and-a-half as a Chi Omega, I have definitely met people that have shaped me and pushed me for the better. The rest of the Samford community tends to think it's impossible to be best friends with 37 other girls in a pledge class—and they are completely right. Although I don't know the deep dark secrets of each of my pledge sisters, I can say that I have learned something from or been impacted by each one of them.

I realize how much I love them when I am having a bad day: I see 10 familiar smiling faces greet me while walking to class, and they truly seem to care about how my life is going. In moments that I need a study break, I can walk down the hall and watch an episode of "Friends" with friends who also laugh at Ross Geller's awkwardness. Being Greek and living in the basement of the house with 18 sorority sisters also means always having an available coffee date or someone ready to do something on the spur-of-the-moment. These girls are special and irreplaceable to me simply because they are always there for me.

I think another misconception of Greek life is that once you pledge a sorority or fraternity, you instantly forge life-long relationships. We found that our friendships did not form over night. I only knew 3 people in my pledge class after recruitment was over. I can still remember looking at all the people in my pledge class on Bid Night thinking, "This is one of the most awkward nights of my life! These girls are supposed to be some of my closest friends over the next four years, and yet, I have never met any of them!"

Our excitement over shared experiences helped create these friendships. They bloomed after spending hours together on pledge retreats, after completing lengthy and arduous hours of Step Sing practices, after living with 20 of them during a Destin Spring Break, and after countless Caf dates, coffee-runs or movie nights in Vail.

Being Greek does not define me, but it has influenced me in ways I did not foresee. It provided me an instant niche as I acclimated to college life during my freshman year. Though I have only known these girls for a little over a year now, they





never cease to amaze me. I have been shown what the fiercest type of loyalty to each other looks like. And when I am questioning or struggling with my faith or find myself starting to fall, I have sisters that are always ready and willing to encourage me and to become my prayer warriors.

So, what does it mean to me to be Greek? I think that over the past 18 months as a Chi Omega, it has been the sincere availability of people who truly love me for who I am and who will always encourage me to strive to stay true to myself.



# Greek: Overcoming the Stereotype

*By Ashlyn Stallings*

*Photo and Spread: Austin Richardson*

I could rattle off remarkable statistics: that 85% of Fortune 500 executives are Greek, over 85% of college campus student leaders are Greek or that Greeks volunteer 10 million hours of community service annually. But facts and figures aside, the institution of social fraternities has polished numerous individuals and honed copious leadership skills. Greek life is an important establishment to many people, including members of Samford's 13 associations.

The imagined comforts of Greek life are here on campus—the bustling frat party, mahogany paneled walls lined in composites, squealing women on bid day and rows of girls in heels during chapter meetings. But what I have come to adore about Samford Greek life is the unconventional approach to a conventional college stereotype. One of the blessings of university life is having an opportunity to jump into a community, to tread water for a while until finding the right direction to swim towards. For some, that direction has Greek letters.

The intense state school Greek atmosphere intimidated me before college. Horror stories of rush, wild band parties and exclusivity may be extreme examples, but regardless, I know that wasn't for me. While that big school bark is worse than the initial bite, I found and love my niche in Samford sorority world. I survived recruitment and have discovered that life inside this Greek world defies the severe Hollywood fratty stereotype.

I quickly became involved by holding an executive office in my organization, but I love that it is not my only outlet here. Instead, I found on-campus involvement encouraged by my sisters, who work tirelessly as athletes, SGA officers, orientation leaders and Student Recruitment Team members. We work together to keep our grades up, and a study room downstairs in the house is the perfect quiet room, void of girls barging in my room keen to chit-chat.

Here, I've never felt unhealthy competition between our Greek groups. Heated perhaps during recruitment or Step Sing, but never malicious. My best friend wears a different pin and walks into a different sorority house, but she's as close to me as my real little sister.

My hope is that students at Samford will see that our organizations truly attempt to uphold the morals mentioned in our creeds and respect our rituals. The 13 Greek organizations form a community—joining every other student, working to live in and better Samford. And that is something to "squeal" about.



# Parties of the Year

*By Carol Anne Autry*

*Photos: Courtesy of Greek Organizations*

*Spread: Austin Richardson*



Every year, sororities and fraternities elect a social chair, better known as "party planners," to step up to the plate and organize the most exciting events of the year. From Baron's games to barnyards, these Greeks cover it all and take pride in their parties. This year was no exception as students put aside their books for a night and danced the night away with dates and friends. Here are just a few of the favorite festivities that went on this year:





#### Alpha Delta Pi

Come, not as you are, was the theme of Alpha Delta Pi's "Alter Ego" party. The girls and their dates masked their identity to dress as the opposite of their true self. Nuns, gangsters, goths and preps all attended this contrasting festivity.

#### Alpha Omicron Pi

White candles and rose petals embellished the historic Rucker Place for Alpha Omicron Pi's semiformal "AOPi Rocks the Night Away." This antique, white mansion overlooks Birmingham, giving the sisters and their dates a beautiful view on their dance breaks. The entertaining band helped AOPi rock the night away.

#### Chi Omega

Chi Omega traveled back to a time of petticoats and white gloves for their semiformal "Gone with the Wind." The charming Anderson Gail Farms was the perfect setting for their first-class affair. When they were not dancing, the girls drank "mocktails" under the stars.

#### Phi Mu

The sisters of Phi Mu ventured into the wild for their party "Welcome to the Jungle." The Birmingham Zoo was theirs for a night of dancing and animal watching. Lions, British explorers and Tarzan twirled beside one another, only taking a break to hold a giant python.

### Zeta Tau Alpha

The sisters of Zeta Tau Alpha welcomed in their new members like rock stars. Decorated with piercings, tattoos and crowns, "The Punk Rock Princess" party was a smash hit. Held at Workplay, the girls and their dates banged their heads along with the punk rock band.

### Lambda Chi Alpha

Lambda Chi Alpha's "Crescent Ball" was a grand slam. Held at the Hoover Met, the brothers and their dates overlooked the baseball field as they grooved to the music. The dance floor extended outside, giving guests the choice to dance under the stars.

### Pi Kappa Phi

Pi Kappa Phi's annual "Barn Bash" is a favorite of the brothers and their dates. Clad in overalls, cowboy boots and plaid shirts, they spent the night two-stepping under the stars to a country band. Hayrides and a bonfire were icing on the cake to a memorable evening.

### Sigma Chi

Fake snow, Santa's sled and reindeer transformed Sigma Chi's chapter room into the North Pole for their annual "Christmas Party." Tacky sweaters, Santa suits and reindeer antlers were only a morsel of the Christmas characters represented. Trotline, a favorite cover band in the south, completed the event.

### Sigma Phi Epsilon

On a picturesque spring evening, the brothers of Sig Ep and their dates danced alfresco at their formal. Held at Gabriella Manor, a Birmingham landmark built in 1938, the brothers cut the rug on a tented dance floor.







# Alpha Delta Pi: Setting the Standard

by Jessica Cunningham and Ashlyn Stallings

Photos: Courtesy of Alpha Delta Pi

Spread: Austin Richardson

President and senior Amy Almand was positively roaring on her way back from the Alpha Delta Pi national convention this summer. The Kappa chapter of Alpha Delta Pi had won the prestigious Golden Lion Award once again in Boston. One glance at the chapter's yearly activities explains why Samford's ADPi chapter is one of the nation's best.

Fall recruitment brought 48 new girls to the ADPi house. The new alpha members received invitations for a weekend slumber party alongside their older sisters for Sisterhood Retreat.

For a party thrown in their honor, the new members grabbed dates and costumes for their first event. Themed "Alter Ego," pledge bash featured sisters and their dates dressed opposite of their personality.

Junior Mallory Siler served as new member coordinator and dressed as a thug for the festivity. "It was a great time for us to celebrate our new alphas and our sisterhood in Alpha Delta Pi," said Siler.

Freshman Erica Breen enjoyed her first party dressed as a country girl dancing to the sounds of Floyd the Barber. "The music was so different and fun. Everyone just had a blast," she said.



At Homecoming, ADPi had another thing to celebrate. Organized by spirit chair Chelsea Hetrick, the ADPi float was creatively themed "Impeach the Governors." The chicken wire and tissue paper concoction won the coveted 1<sup>st</sup> prize trophy.

The same hard work and spirit that was poured into building the float was exhibited in conducting ADPi's annual philanthropic event. The Lion's Share Golf Tournament, directed by philanthropy chair Lauren Welty, raised over \$10,500. Proceeds went to the Birmingham Ronald McDonald House.

"It is a way for us to get directly involved with the Birmingham community," Welty said. "So many philanthropies are national, but because we have an RMH here, we are able to actually go downtown and experience it firsthand."

Capping off an incredible semester, ADPi's elegant semiformal was held in December, with Homewood's Rosewood Hall serving as the backdrop. Dancers escaped the crisp winter air and hit the dance floor, which was filled with sounds from the band, Tight Noise. Posing by the graceful water fountain for pictures, girls made sure to touch fingers to form their favorite sorority hand symbol—a diamond, of course.

The Mallard Ball opened up the spring semester for ADPi. The sisters, in full country and hunting regalia, showed their Southern pride at Camp Hargis. The ADPi's enjoyed smores, country music and even a line dance teacher.

New philanthropy chair Chelsea Hoffman started the first annual Rock for Ronald Contest to benefit the Ronald McDonald House. Contestants from around campus unleashed their inner rockstars as they battled other contestants in a fierce competition of Guitar Hero. Everyone had free pancakes and shared plenty of laughs and memories.

The sisters of Alpha Delta Pi enjoyed one last party, their formal, as they ended a year of unbelievable success. "Through Alpha Delta Pi, I have met and grown to know people I would have otherwise never known," said freshman Meagan Sloan. "Because of the sorority, I strive harder to uphold the high values and standards, not only of ADPi, but of Samford University."



# Alpha Kappa Alpha

By Brittany Todd

Photo: Courtesy of Alpha Kappa Alpha

Spread: Austin Richardson

The 2007-2008 school year has been an exciting time for the Omicron Mu chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha. The chapter made history by becoming the first African American Greek organization on Samford's campus in 1988, and they continue to carry on the legacy of philanthropy and service 20 years later. With this 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary approaching in May and the centennial anniversary of the national Alpha Kappa Alpha coming up in January, the girls of Omicron Mu have many reasons to celebrate.

Although AKA is a small chapter on campus, what they lack in numbers they make up for in involvement. This past year, the chapter was involved in many activities both on and off campus. The girls participated in the Susan G. Komen Race for the Cure in downtown Birmingham in October.

On campus, the members worked hard to raise money for their philanthropy, the Sickle Cell Foundation. The philanthropy is of special interest to the members of AKA because the disease is one that has affected many in the African American community. AKA Vice President Jasmine Bolden, a senior accounting major, said the disease has affected her personally because she has a family member living with Sickle Cell Trait. This year, members participated in the annual Sickle Cell Walk. "This event allowed us to raise money for a good cause and learn more about the cause of the disease and the effect that it has on the community," Bolden said. "We were also able to get some exercise."

AKA members held their annual Skee Week in April. During this week, the girls were able to raise money for both the Sickle Cell Foundation and the March of Dimes through bake sales. They also hosted a movie night in which they showed "The Pursuit of Happyness." The girls raised money by selling drinks, but popcorn was served free of charge. Another activity that AKA sponsored was a barbecue held in Ben Brown Plaza where they sold barbecue sandwiches, chips and drinks. Dr. Westmoreland even joined in on the fun and stopped by the booth for a bite to eat and a picture.

Members also participated in informal activities and outings throughout the year, as well as activities with other chapters across the nation. Bolden said being a part of this organization and associating with other chapters across the nation have greatly enhanced her college experience. "I am an only child, and being a member of AKA has allowed me to have tens of thousands of sisters," Bolden said. "I have learned more about the organization and about myself as an individual. I have been able to develop my leadership skills and make lifelong friendships."

With all of the upcoming anniversaries of the Omicron Mu chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha, Bolden said members have many activities planned on campus and in the community to celebrate the milestones of this organization. "The national office has activities planned as well. We are currently in the process of finalizing our calendar for the spring," she said. "We want to thank all the members of the Samford community who have supported us and hope that we can continue to count on their support in the years to come."





# Alpha Omicron Pi: A Special Year

By Libby Allen and Ashlyn Stallings

Photos: Courtesy of Alpha Omicron Pi

Spread: Austin Richardson

The girls of Alpha Omicron Pi continued to bring their zealous spirit to campus this year as they continued to grow rapidly in number. Multitudes of philanthropy events and fabulous parties showcased a loyal sisterhood.

AOII sponsored several events to raise money for arthritis, their national philanthropy. The creative "Stars for Arthritis" event offered sponsors' names on a paper star in Samford's food court, while sisters worked to collect stuffed pandas for arthritic children during "Panda-monium." AOII girls also volunteered in the Old Howard 100 event. "I'll admit that seeing a couple of Samford professors in spandex on road bikes threw me for a loop," sister Nancy Vander Veer said.

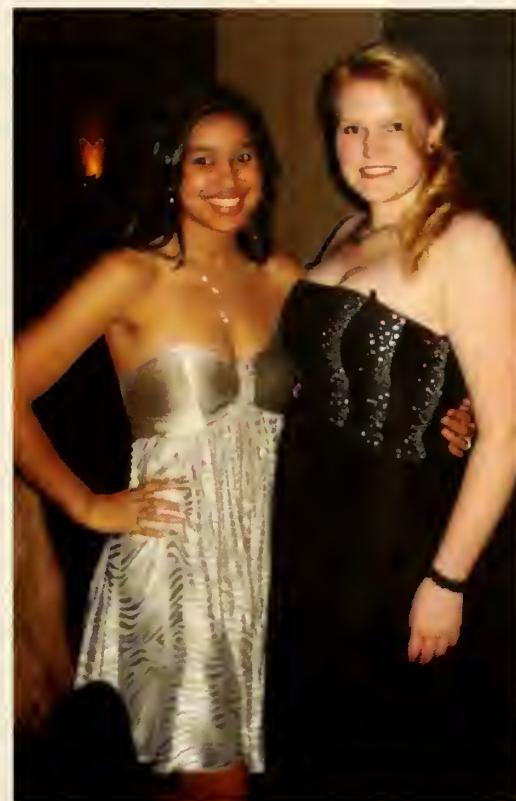
Their annual "AOII in the Face" in Ben Brown Plaza also helped raise funds for arthritis and the sorority had girls proudly participate in Birmingham's Walk for Arthritis.

Social chair Kathryn Galphin kept girls and dates on their toes with her party planning. Fall Ball was themed "Perfectly Matched," and immaculately paired couples danced the night away under Vulcan's watch. After a beautiful winter formal in downtown Birmingham, sisters came back in the spring to a semiformal at the Birmingham Zoo Lodge. Lights and roses added to the atmosphere that Galphin really enjoyed. "Semiformal was my favorite party because I had fun planning it all and enjoying the benefits of my hard work," she said. "Every sister was dancing and the desserts were almost gone by the end of the night!"

A cookout with the brothers of Sigma Phi Epsilon and Lambda Chi Alpha topped off the spring social calendar as the boys grilled hamburgers and hotdogs for the gathered Greek community.

But the girls most enjoyed belonging to the AOII house the night before the cookout. A sisterhood sleepover party was a hit for the entire sorority. Chick flicks reigned on the big screen until girls cut loose and held a sorority-wide game of sardines in the house. The ladies of Alpha Omicron Pi are a close knit group. "This was truly a special year for us, and we are all so excited to see what this upcoming year holds for us," member Carter Chambliss said.





# Chi Omega: Exceeding Expectations

By Sloan Schmidtke

Photo: Courtesy of Chi Omega

Spread: Austin Richardson



Chi Omega's fall of 2007 was a whirlwind of activity. It all started with a long, yet successful week of recruitment. After the final bid list was read to the chapter on Bid Night, President Betsy Martin said, "If this stellar pledge class we just got is any indication of how our year is going to go, I couldn't be more excited." With a pledge class of 49 new "Hooties" Chi Omega celebrated with a themed "Peace, Love and Chi O" party, thrown in their honor.

The new pledge class had their pledge retreat at the Big Oak Girls Ranch, which is Chi Omega's local philanthropy. The Big Oak Girl's Ranch is a home for girls whose parents need help supporting them.

The new members were not the only ones to spend time at the ranch. There were Chi O's there almost every weekend, babysitting the girls to enable the parents to have a night off.

Chi Omega spent a great deal of time also working with its national philanthropy, Make-A-Wish, which grants wishes to children with life threatening illnesses. During the first week of school, the chapter was able to grant the wish of a 16-year-old boy in the Birmingham area. Chi Omega was able to buy him a computer with money they had raised the year before during an 80s-themed dance party.

In October, Chi Omega hosted a Charity Denim Sale that also raised money for Make-A-Wish. The sale featured over 200 pairs of designer jeans at discounted prices. Chi Omega raised over \$6,000 from the jean sale along with money raised from letters sent to businesses asking them to support the philanthropy. Coordinator of the Charity Jean Sale, Rebecca Stivender, said, "I couldn't have asked for anything more successful."

After working so hard for their philanthropies, it was time to end the year with a formal affair. Celebrating the semester in a "Ritz, Glitz and Glam" theme, Chi Omega danced the night away at the Highland Hotel with music from the band Second Comings.

Chi Omega's spring semester started off by welcoming 48 new Chi Omega sisters into their chapter after the freshman pledge class completed their initiation.

After initiation weekend, Chi O's dove right into rigorous Step Sing practices in preparation for another stellar performance. "The Lost Boys" stole the show with a perfectly executed routine to songs such as "Die Another Day," "Born to be Wild" and "Forever Young."

As defending champions of the Derby Days trophy, Chi Omega set to work during the week of Derby Days to help Sigma Chi raise money for its philanthropy, Children's Miracle Network. The sisters of Chi Omega won the 1<sup>st</sup> place trophy for the second year in a row.

As the year's end was quickly approaching, Chi Omegas and their dates headed out to a plantation on Anderson Dale Farms for a semiformal in Scarlett O'Hara style. The sisters danced under the moonlight to the band Jordan and the Four Kicks.







# Phi Mu

By Sallianne Prothro

Photos: Courtesy of Phi Mu

Spread: Austin Richardson

President Lindsey Ferguson could not be more pleased with her sorority. "It has been a fantastic year for Phi Mu," Ferguson said. "We started off with a great recruitment, and we were so excited to show off our new decorations for Philanthropy Night in our beautiful, redecorated house." Ferguson said the chapter's spirit on campus continued to increase throughout the year with excellent performances in academics and intramural sports.

Over Fall Break, the sorority partnered with Samford's University Ministries and Mountaintop Community Church in Birmingham for a mission trip to Bayou LaBatre, Alabama in order to aid in Hurricane Katrina disaster relief work. The volunteers helped complete many projects over the five-day trip, including roofing a house for a single mother and putting in a new floor for an elderly woman. Ferguson, who went on the trip, said Phi Mu's participation "exemplifies the character of Phi Mu girls who are willing to get involved in service."

Phi Mu continued their faithful support of the Samford Bulldogs with a packed schedule of events for Homecoming 2007. Right after Fall Break, the sisters started constructing their Homecoming Parade float. Their creative depiction of Samford's bulldog mascot and Austin Peay's governor mascot garnered Phi Mu second place in the float contest.

Before the football game, the sorority participated with other organizations in hosting a tailgate on the Quad. "Tailgating was definitely a big hit that weekend," Phi Mu homecoming director Emmy Goad said. "We set up a big tent and grilled hamburgers and hotdogs, and had all sorts of other food. We had a great time hanging out before the game with everyone." Goad also had Homecoming t-shirts made for the girls of Phi Mu to wear to the game, printed with the slogan "Impeach the Governors."

Later in the fall, the Phi Mu chapter worked very hard in raising money to support their philanthropy, Children's Miracle Network. "To me, philanthropy is one of the main purposes of the sorority," philanthropy chair Sarah Fort said. "It's for a group of women to get together and make a difference."

For their fall philanthropy events, Phi Mu participated with the Sigma Chi fraternity, fellow Children's Miracle Network supporters, in Trick-or-Treating for pocket change on Halloween night. Going door-to-door and asking for donations, the groups raised around \$3,000 for Children's Hospital in Birmingham.

On November 17, the Phi Mu chapter hosted its 13<sup>th</sup> Annual 5K Race in Heardmont Park. Proceeds from the race and a corresponding letter-writing campaign totaled an astounding \$43,000 in support for CMN.

Among all their hard work in academics, campus activities and philanthropy service, the girls of Phi Mu also took a few chances to kick back and have some fun at their various parties. The highlight of the semester was the semi-formal dance in November, held at the Huntsville Space and Rocket Center.



Phi Mu social chair Meaghan Roché planned the event. "The theme was 'Fly Me to the Moon,' meant to reflect the 'space race' of the late 1950s and early 1960s," Roché said. The party started with a buffet style dinner, and then guests were allowed to tour the museum. Tour guides were available to answer any questions, and the famed Mission to Mars simulator also entertained guests. Rhythms of a jazz band lured dancers to the floor.

"It was definitely one of my top five favorite parties," said Roché. Senior Phi Mu Abbey Woodruff agreed. "Semi-formal was a fun and unique way to end the semester. No other party has been like that, with such a cool location and wide variety of things to do there."



# Zeta Tau Alpha: More than Letters

By Carol Anne Autry

Photos: Courtesy of Zeta Tau Alpha

Spread: Austin Richardson

To the sisters of Zeta Tau Alpha, one aspect of a sorority reigns above them all: sisterhood. Awards and certificates cannot compare to Friday nights spent in the chapter room laughing for hours, enjoying the delicious Caf food together every lunch and dinner or dancing the night away with sisters at every party.

"The letters gave me an instant connection with my sisters, but through this connection I have made lasting friendships that go deeper than letters or names. My sisters in Zeta have been by my side for every good and bad part of college," junior exercise science major Tori Beckham said.

The sisters of Zeta value their philanthropy, Breast Cancer Awareness, as an opportunity to influence the lives of women in their community and throughout the world. Each semester, the sisters assemble "Think Pink" baskets to distribute to women within Birmingham that are battling breast cancer. This year, Zeta devised "Zeta Paints the Town Pink" to also raise awareness in the Samford community. The sisters passed cards throughout the women's dorms with information about signs of breast cancer and encouraged the campus to wear pink. By writing letters to family and friends, the women raised close to \$6,000 for the Zeta Foundation, which furthers research and education.

Not only did the women of Zeta actively participate in their philanthropy, they were also involved with tutoring at McElwain Elementary School. For the past three years, a large number of Zetas have given their Thursday afternoons to spend with the children of McElwain.

"Knowing that I have the wonderful chance to impact kids' lives just by giving up an hour a week has been such a rewarding experience," said Lexie Strong, a freshman elementary education major.

Parties offer an opportunity for the women to escape from the stress of school and dance the night away with their sisters. Zeta celebrated pledge bash punk-rock style, complete with pink Converse and black ties. For their "Punk Rock Princess" party, the women danced to a rock n' roll band in the sleek atmosphere of Workplay theater.

"This was such a fun party because for one night we became a different person in every way, from what we wore, the music we listened to, to how we danced," said sophomore elementary education major Katie Albertsen. "And I got to wear suspenders; what could be better than that?"

For formal, the girls ventured back to a time of black-and-white movies and long white gloves for their Old Hollywood party. A historic home decorated with white lights and flowers provided a chic ambience to create the mood. The band played a diverse selection of music, appeasing any taste.

The Zetas at Samford continue to put the words of their creed "to find satisfaction in being rather than seeming" into practice everyday, from service in the community to their involvement at Samford.

Sophomore family studies major Rebecca Rigell said, "Being a Zeta means authentic friendships that will last forever, holding each other accountable to a greater calling than this world and loving each other through everything."



# Lambda Chi Alpha: Movin' on up

by Ashlyn Stallings

Photos: Courtesy of Lambda Chi Alpha

Spread: Austin Richardson

Lambda Chi Alpha President Michael Phillips was pleased with the 2007 recruitment. "This year's rush, as always, was a time when our brothers came together to share our brotherhood with others," Phillips said. Member Andrew Heckathorn agrees. "We're still on the rise after getting back on campus two years ago and have had some good classes come through," he said. And with all the activities Lambda Chi has on tap for a year, there's no better time to join.

Lambda Chi seeks to help their philanthropy on both the national and chapter levels. Heckathorn helped on both fronts this year. "Our fraternity as a national organization holds the North American Food Drive. All the brothers participated and really got out there to collect a lot of canned goods to represent Samford on the national fraternity level," Heckathorn said.

The brothers of Lambda Chi Alpha also support their chapter philanthropy, Kid One Transports, by raising money. The Kid One organization is local to Alabama and works as a transportation service for families whose parents are sometimes unable to pick up their children. The annual Volleyball Classic was successful again at the sand volleyball court outside the Lambda Chi house. A women's league and a men's/coed league were offered to Samford students. On the delightful spring Saturday, spectators and players showed up to enjoy the games and grab a bite to eat. The women of Phi Mu and an independent league won their prospective divisions.

The tornadoes of an Alabama April forced a brother's retreat from Tannehill State Park to the Birmingham YMCA, but the brothers made the best of the all day retreat. Food hot off the grill satisfied hungry Lambda Chi's, who participated in a fraternity-wide kickball and basketball game.

Among several brotherhood events offered throughout the year, the brothers worked to ensure that their date parties were a success. Regions Park, home to the Birmingham Barons baseball team, was the backdrop for fall formal. At Christmas time, the Lambda Chi house swung open its doors for all Samford students. Christmas music played while food was served to all in attendance.

In the spring, Lambda Chi's annual semiformal was held at the gorgeous Robert Trent Jones golf course. With a "Mardi Gras Madness" theme, brother Christon Burns planned a party in which guests received masks and souvenir glasses. Brothers and their dates enjoyed music, food and dancing—all with a New Orleans twist.

Lambda Chi has a new claim to fame this year. In the spring of 2008, Drew Davis was elected as SGA president. As a member of Lambda Chi, Davis gained the brothers help with his campaign. Printing off and hanging fliers, designing a website, ordering stickers and encouraging others to vote, the brothers of Lambda Chi did their part to ensure that Drew was elected. "With all his brothers behind him, we think it worked," Heckathorn said.

With a packed calendar and on-campus achievements, the brothers are proud to see the voice of Lambda Chi getting stronger and stronger.





# Pi Kappa Phi: Welcome Freshmen

By Hayden Hamrick

Spread: Austin Richardson

The mission statement of the Pi Kappa Phi fraternity is “we will lead.” It would ring true that the brothers of Pi Kapp have done just that on Samford’s campus this past year.

“I’ve never been more impressed with the brothers of Pi Kappa Phi than in the past year,” said Hunter Pugh, a senior economics major and Vice President in 2007.

The fall is always an exciting time for any Greek organization, and this past year was no different for Pi Kapp. The brothers of Pi Kapp welcomed 33 new members, the largest pledge class of the fraternities at Samford for the fall 2007 recruitment. Soon after recruitment in the fall was their semi-formal, Southern Gentlemen’s Ball, at B&A Warehouse. “Though we threw the party at a location different than usual, it really was a good time,” said Patrick Baggett, a junior economics major.

Other fall parties for Pi Kapp included the Halloween Party with Lambda Chi, Chi O and Zeta and the traditional Barn Bash. The Halloween party was hosted by Pi Kapp at their fraternity house. However, one might not have recognized the house because it was decorated immaculately. A mote led into the Pi Kapp house, and inside were decorations and fog machines. Barn Bash has become an annual social gathering for Pi Kapp in the late fall. Celebrated at former brother Jim Steven’s farm every year, a country band, bonfire and a hayride entertain the ambiance.

Though the social events are an important aspect of the fraternity, they are not everything for Pi Kapp. This year, Pi Kapp raised more money than ever for PUSH America, their national philanthropy. Every year, the brothers of Pi Kapp, led by the new pledge class, raise money by pushing a wheelchair around campus collecting donations. This year, brothers could be found in a group by the guard gate at any hour, even 4 a.m. “I am proud of the time we put into PUSH this year, and the money we raised,” said Matt Fennell, a sophomore communications studies major.

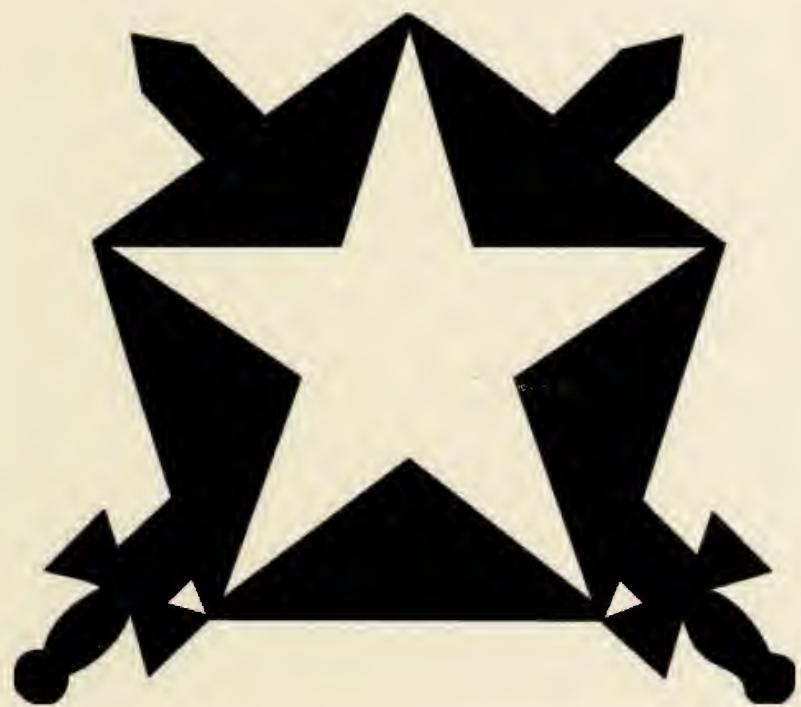
The brothers of Pi Kapp also volunteer at the Lakeshore Foundation, their local philanthropy, and Habitat for Humanity. “I find great fulfillment in knowing that we have actively served the community, been active on campus and most of all, have made lifelong friendships along the way,” said Trey Nix, senior economics major and President of Pi Kappa Phi in 2007.

In the spring of 2008, Pi Kapp looks forward to Formal in early May, Brotherhood Retreat in April and an additional spring mixer party.

The executive council for Pi Kappa Phi in 2007 included: Trey Nix, President; Hunter Pugh, Vice President; Harrison Irons, Secretary; John Ward Weiss, Treasurer; CG Covey, Chaplain; Patrick Baggett, Historian; and Michael Suess, Warden.

“Being president of Pi Kapp has been one of the greatest experiences of my college career,” said Nix. “More than anything during my tenor as president, I am most proud that Pi Kapp stands for something.”





# Sigma Chi: Seen and Heard

By Matt Campbell

Photos: Courtesy of Sigma Chi

Spread Austin Richardson

The 2007-2008 school year proved to be another great year for the brothers of Sigma Chi. The fraternity's national philanthropies include the Children's Miracle Network, adopted in 1992, and the Huntsman Cancer Institute, adopted in 2005. The Pi Chapter joins fellow Sigma Chi's nationwide and conducts Derby Days to raise donations. This year, the chapter raised over \$10,000 for their charities.

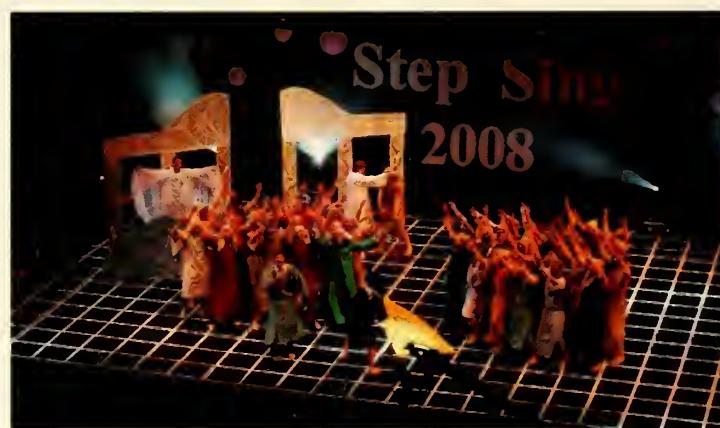
As the weather warmed up in April, the brothers of Sigma Chi launched their week of Derby Days. The weeklong event featured various activities for the Greek women to compete in such as Birmingham-wide scavenger hunts, Sign-a-Sig, relay games and more. The fundraising festivities ended in a Sigma Chi house party for the participants.

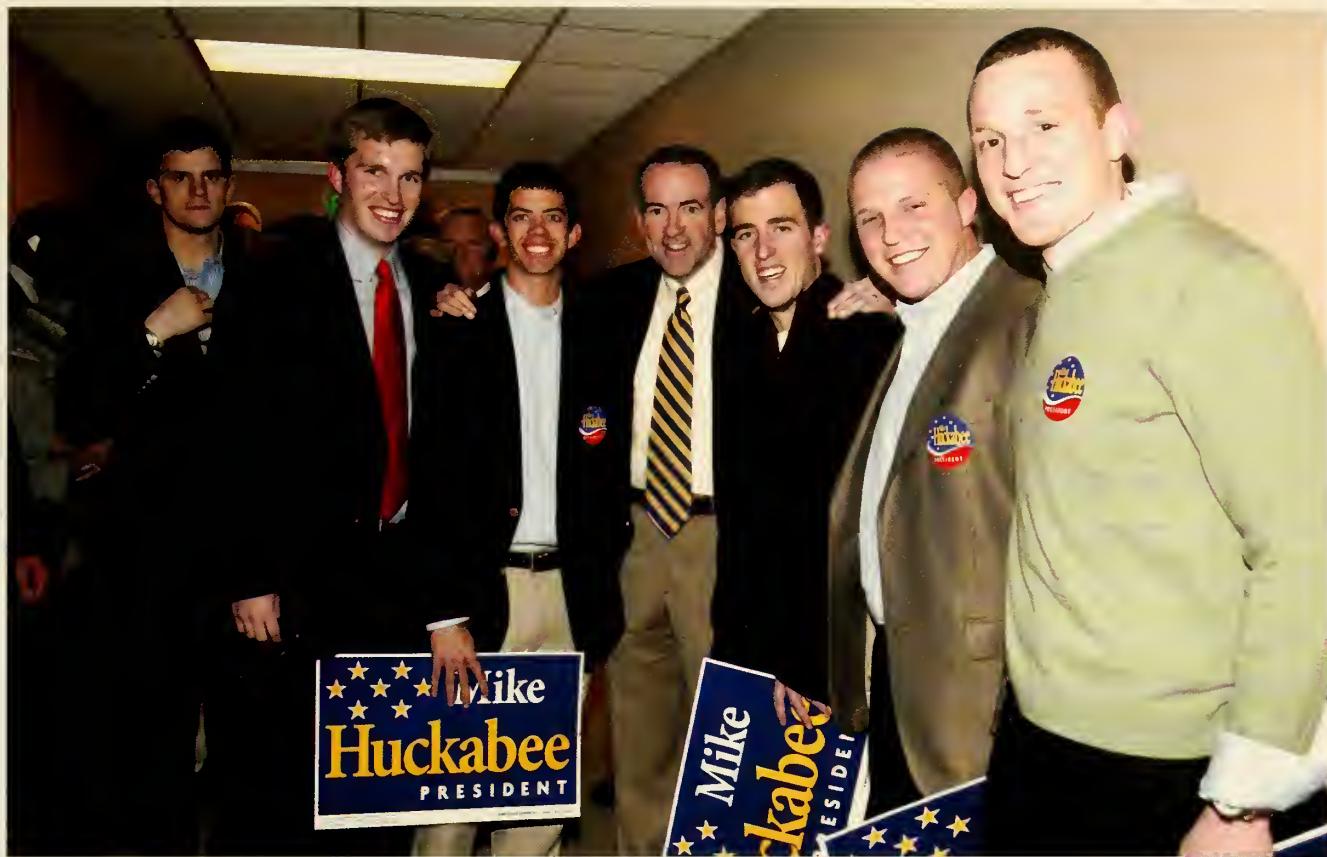
But their philanthropic spirit didn't stop there. Brothers joined other Samford Greeks to participate in tutoring and cleaning at McElwain Elementary. Sigma Chi also took part in the Mercedes Marathon, Relay for Life and the Shades Mountain Fish Roundup.

Another important aspect of the fraternity was their alumni relations. During Homecoming festivities in October, Sigma Chi hosted an alumni barbecue where brothers greeted over 120 alumni as they returned to Samford and visited their chapter. Food was spread on tables under a tent complete with televisions for diehard SEC fans to catch every last second of the early afternoon games.

Sigma Chi was not silent on the social front and had parties with varying themes and organizations. The social calendar began with a toga party in September, a fall band party in the middle of football season and the traditional Sigma Chi Christmas party in December. Spring semester saw a "Sweet Home West Virginia" party—a themed event for guests to pull out their best redneck attire and stomp to a country band. The fraternity formal was held at the Tennessee Aquarium in Chattanooga, where dates danced into the early hours of the morning in the company of beautiful and exotic fish.

Their hysterical Step Sing show may have garnered the fraternity the coveted sweepstakes award, but that doesn't mean they are kicking back. The brothers of Sigma Chi strive for excellence in all areas of campus life, attempting to remember the past, embrace the present and plan for the future.





# Sigma Nu: Building F

*By Ryan Posniak  
Photo and Spread: Austin Richardson*

Not one person can deny the fact that Sigma Nu is truly a band of men who regard each other as family. Through what can only be deemed a rough fall 2007 semester, the brothers' unity and loyalty to each other and their letters was clear. After an unfortunate incident that involved alcohol during Pledge Bash, the fraternity was placed on university suspension. Through rough waters, these men certainly displayed their depth of character in the way that they remained stable and allied, though much was at stake.

Though the house has been temporarily renamed "Building F," Sigma Nu has not forgotten what their purpose as a chapter is. The brothers have demonstrated their determination by remaining loyal to several charities despite the lack of being officially recognized on campus. They supported Old Howard 100, tutored children at McElwain Elementary School and helped out with Habitat for Humanity.

Sigma Nu also kept up their amazing football game turnout, as the brothers fill the end zone and bring energy and support to the Bulldogs. But they are just as comfortable on the field as well, as their aggressive and impressive flag football and soccer skills are on display during intramural games. Rounding out the year, the beloved "Nusball Dirty Dozen" team remained strong, albeit in their spandex shorts, jean shorts (affectionately called "jorts") and pink helmets. There is never a dull moment watching this team.

Though they celebrate it as if it was a national holiday, Talladega weekend is something to mention but not expound the details. So, despite the fact that all of their community involvement might lead one to believe that they are too serious for a good time, one must not be fooled. With a roomier social calendar than usual, brothers Jonathan Flowers and David Yerger started Tuesday Night Date Night, adding a twist to the classic dating scene. The two boys treat friends to a night of tons of fun and new memories for a break during the week.

Next fall, Sigma Nu will be officially recognized again as the brotherhood they truly are. With their recognition, they plan on being more involved on campus and becoming one of the more upstanding organizations at Samford's. "Building F" will become the Sigma Nu house again in the Fall—branded with their "ΣN" letters above the door. "We are not going to let one small mistake in the past hold us back. We plan on being the strongest we have ever been next year," said chapter member Aaron Weber.



# Sigma Phi Epsilon: Getting Better All the Time

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*By Jessica Cunningham*

*Photos and Spread: Austin Richardson*

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Sigma Phi Epsilon's Alabama Gamma chapter started the new semester with a bang. "Being back up to twenty-five members has been a tough ride, but it has definitely been worth it," said senior Austin Richardson.

The seven new pledges bonded with the older brothers at a Halloween party scavenger hunt. SigEp's took pictures at various locations in Birmingham and at Samford for the hunt, then ended at a brother's house. There, the brothers partied the night away with snacks, music, dancing and a scary movie. To end the night, judges gave away prizes for best costume and winners of the scavenger hunt.

SigEp hosted the first annual "Big Steve Hug-a-thon" to support their national philanthropy, the T.A.K.E. Foundation. Girls and even a few guys emptied their pockets to hug freshman heartthrob Steve Harford. The price? Only \$1 per hug.

"It was just a funny idea, but we were really able to help the T.A.K.E. Foundation," Harford said. The event raised over \$150 for SigEp's philanthropy.

The T.A.K.E. Foundation, a self-defense training program started by a Kansas University SigEp, develops comprehensive safety awareness seminars for women.

Sophomore Ferrell Armstrong believes the seminar is so important "because there has been such a high crime rate for the past couple of years in Birmingham. It is so important for people, especially women, to be aware of their surroundings and know how to react in crises," he said.

In December, Samford SigEp's partnered with Alpha Delta Pi to host a campus-wide self-defense workshop for students. A campus safety officer offered advice and instruction to attendees.

A Super Bowl party at an alum's house and the official spring rush kickoff began the new year for SigEp's. Festivities at Jim N' Nicks and Buffalo Wild Wings restaurants helped the brothers sign four new members.

The semester was full of fun events, such as a cookout with the ladies of AOPi and the brothers of Lambda Chi. SigEp's formal was held at the luxurious Gabrelle Manor. The brothers enjoyed dancing, music and most of all, a chocolate fondue fountain.

The SigEps traveled down to Gulf Shores for a relaxing brotherhood retreat where they ended a truly successful year and emphasized the importance of brotherhood for Sigma Phi Epsilon. Freshman member RJ Harden said, "Sigma Phi Epsilon has truly shaped my freshman year experience. Through the fraternity and my brothers, I have gotten involved with numerous philanthropies, played in intramural sports and made lifelong friendships."



# Compete





# Hanna Center Expands Athletic Opportunities

By Kaitlin McCulley

Photos: Becky Ellenberger & Austin Richardson

Spread. Austin Richardson



On the morning of October 18, an aura of prestige and elegance surged throughout the 132,000 square-foot Pete Hanna Center, bouncing against the high arched ceilings and sliding down the palace-like stairways. The early morning sunlight caught the construction dust in mid-air, only to be swept away hours later by the thousands of students, faculty and alumni that rushed up the freshly-paved walkway into a dome of possibilities for Samford Sports.

Homecoming festivities cemented the multi-purpose facility into Samford history by utilizing its unique capability to hold lectures, concerts and athletic events. Samford guest speaker Walter Issacson, author of "Einstein: His Life and Uni-

verse," was the first to take the stage of the 5,000 seat arena dedicated to Thomas E. and Marla H. Corts, followed by the country music group Little Big Town.

For athletics, the opening of 'The Pete,' as students say, launched Samford into a new level of competition in all sports.

Junior volleyball player Jackie Jaszczyk suffered a season-ending knee injury in 2006 and is glad to play in the new arena.

"The new floor has springs under it and provides cushion when we jump. After playing in Seibert, where the floor is basically wood over concrete, you can really feel the difference," Jaszczyk said.

The new floor served the team well; they ended their season by defeating top-ranked Morehead State in three consecutive games on November 10. The lady bulldogs were the first to host a conference team in the Corts Arena.

Both the men's and women's basketball teams continued the Corts success streak by winning their first games in the arena. The men's team took down the Lindsey Wilson Blue Raiders in an exhibition game on November 5, and the women's team triumphed over SEC opponent Alabama for the first time in Samford history on November 13.

Although the inauguration of the Pete Hanna Center brought many firsts to Samford's campus, Samford's long-standing core values arise from the very foundation of the building.

The building's namesake, Pete Hanna, credited a student in his 1955 Howard College class with leading him to make the most important decision in his life—accepting Jesus Christ as his Savior. At Hanna's request, a plaque with the words of John 3:16 inscribed at the top is featured prominently in the lobby of the Hanna Center.

"The Pete Hanna Center is an amazing facility to play in. It is at the top of our league," said senior basketball center Travis Peterson.

All Samford varsity athletes are grateful for the new locker rooms, the new weight room with new equipment and the state-of-the-art training room.

Assistant Athletic Trainer Brandon Evans said the training room in the Hanna Center measures 360 square feet, roughly twice the size of the old training room. The old training room had seven treatment tables and two 80-gallon, manually-controlled whirlpool tubs; the Hanna Center training room boasts 12 new treatment tables and two 350-gallon, electronically-controlled whirlpool tubs.

"It's really nice having everything right there. We have the locker room right next to the training room, which is beside the weight room. We don't have to go very far to get in a good workout," said Peterson.

Varsity athletes are not the only ones who benefit from the Hanna Center. A fitness and wellness center complete with aerobic and weight training equipment is free of cost for all Samford students, faculty and alumni.

According to Campus Recreation, the cardio area of the fitness center includes eight treadmills, eight elliptical machines and four stationary bikes; each is equipped with a flat-screen television. The fitness center is open from 6 a.m. until midnight Monday through Thursday in order to suit the erratic schedules of most college students.

Before the Hanna Center opened, freshman Hannah Wilhoite sat cross-legged on the discolored mats of the Cage floor and waited until one of the two other girls using the elliptical machines finished using the machine. The girls had 20 minutes left in their workouts.

"I am so glad that I don't have to wait for an elliptical machine anymore. It's really nice," said Wilhoite.

Some students never used the equipment in the Cage in an effort to avoid the staph bacteria that plagued Samford's campus. Sophomore sports medicine major Jacinda Koziara linked conditions in the Cage to the spread of staph infections among students.

"The humidity coming from the pool flows right up the spiral staircase and into the Cage. Anytime you provide a humid environment, you're asking for micro-organisms to grow," said Koziara.

In the new fitness center, students exchange their Samford identification cards for clean towels as they enter the facility. All patrons wipe down the equipment before and after each use and toss used towels in a wastebasket when they complete their workout.

"I think that more students are working out as a result of the clean facility, and that contributes to the overall well-being of Samford students," Koziara said.

Koziara unwittingly spoke to Samford's mission—to nurture the entire person. As the last brightly-colored speck of Homecoming floated away, the Pete Hanna Center secured its place in Samford athletics "...for God, for learning, forever."



# Defining the Red

By Val Kikkert and Matt Robertson

Photos: Becky Ellenberger

Spread: Austin Richardson

"Nothing quite compares to the excitement of a big-time sporting event on campus," sophomore Steven Williams said. Williams was often found painted up at various Samford athletic events this year. Some might say he "bleeds red and blue."

Samford's team behind the team began to show its true color this year. Red.

The Red Sea, which stemmed from the Dog Pound, is an athletic booster club that is geared toward the student body to build support for Samford athletic events. There were 1,300 members this year, which is the most the organization has ever seen.

The Dog Pound began with 50 members in 2001. Membership fees were \$25 and there was a lack of enthusiasm from the students to join this group. As a freshman excited about college athletic events, senior marketing major Gavin Mayo resolved that something needed to be done for the student-body to make the most out of athletic events.

In 2004, he proposed his ideas for change to the athletics department for the support behind Samford athletic events. With help from Grant Lyons, Director of Marketing for Athletics, and support from fellow students, Mayo initiated voting for a new name and image for the team behind the team.



The name, Red Sea, was decided upon by the student body in 2005 and has been a work-in-progress ever since. This year, the Red Sea Committee became an established group of ten students who met once a month to discuss how to better promote athletic events and also the details involved in incorporating the fan base into each event.

"The committee serves as the liaison between students and athletes. They encourage the students to attend the events and communicate with the athletes to find out what brings energy from the stands," Lyons said.

Lyons also said the focus of the committee is to figure out how to get people at every athletic event, not just the basketball and football games. This year, Mayo and junior exercise science major Ruth Amaglian served as co-presidents of the committee and organization overall.

So how does the Red Sea recruit members to pay the \$10 fine to join? Easy. A T-shirt and community sponsor benefits.

Some of this year's sponsors include Coca Cola, WingZone, Firehouse Subs, Seattle Drip, Sport Clips and Regions Bank. As a member, a student received discounted prices to these places. Throughout the year, gift cards to Best Buy, an XM portable satellite radio and an ipod were among the giveaways to Red Sea members. Red Sea faculty sponsor and Assistant Marketing Director Ben Murchison was in charge of all the sponsors this year.

Members also received an additional T-shirt created specifically for basketball games, as well as a discounted price for the Homecoming Football Game T-shirt.

Not only were the material giveaways appealing, but Red Sea members had access to a priority seating in the new Pete Hanna Arena for basketball games. Members could also receive a discounted price to the Samford-Georgia Tech football game in September.

"The increase in membership this year gave us more money to play with in terms of deciding on giveaways," Lyons said.

The next wave for the Red Sea is Lyons' goal of 75 percent participation from the student body by the year 2010. He said the key element to the reality of this goal is time.

"I think it will take another three to four years to really get the Red Sea established. It's like a head coach taking over a new team. It takes time to adjust," Lyons said.

With the arrival of Pat Sullivan, the transition to the Southern Conference and the new arena, the Red Sea has the attention of the student body, Lyons said. Now it's a matter of getting everyone's support.

The athletes appreciate the Red Sea's impact on home events.

"The fans definitely have influence on the game," said senior basketball player Travis Peterson. "When they are excited, it boosts our own excitement, creating a better chance for us to win. They help create a great atmosphere for us to compete in. They are definitely a part of our success as a team."

Athlete involvement and promotion will be crucial in the upcoming years for increased support, Lyons said. This year was a huge year for the Red Sea, but the organization must continue to grow. All opponents must leave with a red tint in their eyes and the remembrance of the roar from behind the team.



# A Different Routine

By Val Kikkert and Cassaundra Stinson

Photos and Spread. Austin Richardson

Pom-poms and pep go along with any cheerleading squad, but at Samford the enthusiastic group on the sideline is so much more.

This year marked the first year for head coach Niva Roberson, who teaches at Homewood High School across the street.

Roberson brought many changes to the focus of the squad this year. One of her main focuses was for the squad to look more collegiate. She made changes in the game cheers and routines, and she attempted to incorporate more dancing to the band songs.

She also wanted the girls to become more involved in the Samford community. When the cheerleaders are recognized on campus, they receive a better response from the fans during the games, Roberson said.

The girls made this their focus as well. They said they want more students to respect them as the cheerleading squad who supports the team and initiates enthusiasm, rather than just a group of girls with some catchy cheers.

Respect is what they desired, and more than respect became what they deserved after their hard work in the 2007-08 school year.

Tryouts for the squad are in May, but a second tryout was held in September. Tryouts are a two-day process in which the girls learn routines and cheers in a clinic the first day, and then actually try out based on the routines the second day.



The girls were selected based on cheer jumps, stunts, standing and running tumbling skills and their enthusiasm in the Samford Fight Song. Roberson changed some of the dance to the fight song this year, so every girl, returnee or not, had to learn this aspect of tryouts for the first time. Along with the physical ability evaluations, each girl also had to apply and interview with Roberson.

The composition of the squad is very young and different from last year. There is only one senior among the 16-girl squad, five of whom are returnees. September tryouts picked up three additions to complete the squad for the year.

Sophomore Amanda Walker said there are many roles of leadership on the team. Senior Lauren Hughston and sophomore Morgan Hargrove are in charge of leading cheers and stunts. Walker gives devotions before practices, junior Emily Paul is in charge of workouts and junior Brittany Tedford serves as the communication between Roberson and the team.

"The team is so close. We talk about any issues we have before practice and we don't hide anything from each other," Walker said.

A major role in the unity of the team lies in pre-season fall camp, Walker said. Like the fall sports, the cheerleading squad came to Samford early to prepare for the semester and year ahead. During this time, they spent much time perfecting their cheers and tumbling skills and learning the stunts for the year's competitions and football games.

The last weekend before the start of school, the squad went to the University of Louisville for an NCAA cheerleading competition in which they competed against other schools from across the country in stunts and in incorporating pom-poms and signs in cheers. Walker said the routines were evaluated based on their ability to get the crowd involved. She said the stunts were elementary and mainly focused on routine and prop incorporation.

Samford placed third in the girls-only Division One competition.

Unique to this year are multiple competitions in which the squad participated. The squad has not done multiple cheerleading competitions in one year in a long time. Roberson said she wanted to see her squad competing against squads from other schools which will help her squad become more collegiate.

"As a squad, one of our biggest goals is competing and doing well in competition," Hargrove said.

To achieve this goal, the girls spent long hours practicing and perfecting their cheers and stunts each week to be ready for competition and games. Practices were twice a week, Mondays and Thursdays, for two hours each day. They also spent two days, Tuesdays and Thursdays, working out in the weight room with Strength and Conditioning Coach Tommy Rohling.



Hargrove said the squad lifts weights and works on tumbling at every practice to reduce the risk of injuries during games and competitions.

While the girls do not view cheerleading as a major commitment, they still know they are a part of a varsity sport and therefore must give 110 percent to everything they do as the Samford Cheerleaders.

Along with practices, games and competitions, the squad spent time raising money for Breast Cancer Awareness this year. They collected money at select football games and held a Breast Cancer Awareness Walk in early Spring.

While spending time transitioning to a more collegiate style, the team was led to more developed cheers and stunts and an increased incorporation of spirit on the Samford campus.

"Our goal this year was for students and alumni to have more school pride and spirit with Samford athletics. We want to get more people involved," Walker said.

# A New Era Begins

By Ben Hankins

Photos and Spread: Austin Richardson

This year, Samford University ushered in a new era of Bulldog Football.

Former Auburn quarterback and Heisman Trophy winner Pat Sullivan took the helm as the head football coach at Samford, making him the program's 35<sup>th</sup> head coach in history.

Sullivan's marquee signing with the Bulldogs not only made headlines nationwide, but also raised tremendous expectations at our Shades Valley campus.

The Sullivan era officially began on Dec. 6, 2006, at the announcement of Sullivan's hiring, but most would say it began in the team's season opener

against in-state opponent West Alabama.

The Bulldogs entered the season-opening game coming off a 3-8, 1-7 OVC record in 2006 under former head coach Bill Gray, and were eager to begin Sullivan's career as a Bulldog on a good note.

Samford didn't disappoint, posting a nail-biting 23-21 victory over the Tigers.

Senior receiver Joe Jones said the win felt great, emphasizing the importance of beginning the Sullivan era with a win.

"I can't emphasize the excitement he's brought to our program," Jones

said. "We were out there playing our guts out for him."

After suffering a blistering 69-14 loss to FCS opponent Georgia Tech the following week, the Bulldogs bounced back with back-to-back wins at Seibert Stadium over Presbyterian College and OVC foe Southeast Missouri, notching the Bulldogs at 3-1 on the season.

Following the two home wins, the Bulldogs battled three straight conference losses to Eastern Kentucky, Tennessee-Martin and Austin Peay, respectively.

The most frustrating of those losses was the latter. After the head-scratching loss to Austin Peay, in which the Bulldogs out-gained the Governors by more than 200 yards of offense, Sullivan said the team's mistakes in the red zone were killing them. He also said the team had to take more advantage of its opportunities in opponents' territory.

The Bulldogs had no trouble responding to the coach's challenge, rattling off an impressive 59-52 win on the road at Tennessee Tech. During the game, the Bulldogs tallied an uncanny 654 yards of offense. Senior quarterback Jefferson Adcock threw for 472 yards and senior receiver Jeff Moore had 260 yards receiving, both school records.

According to several team members, the victory over TTU was an important one for the program. Sullivan worked under TTU head coach Watson Brown while coaching as an assistant at UAB from 1999 – 2000.

"This game was a boost for us," Adcock said. "It was our first road win of the season, which was very important. It was a back and forth game and I'm glad we ended up on top."

Sullivan said he hoped the team's fourth win would have ignited a late-season rally for the Bulldogs, but the





Bulldogs fell back into their old habits, dropping three straight decisions once again to close out the season.

Two of those losses came at home at the hands of in-state rival Jacksonville State and Tennessee State. The Bulldogs lost their season finale to 18<sup>th</sup> ranked Eastern Illinois.



While Sullivan admitted the team's 4-8 record was a disappointment, he noted the team's many other accomplishments.

The Bulldogs scored 26 points per game—compared to 15 in 2006—mostly from going from being the league's sixth best passing attack to second.

The Bulldogs' running game also improved greatly, grinding out an average of 153 yards per game; they averaged 95 yards rushing per game in 2006. Red-shirt freshman running back Chris Evans became the team's first 1000 yard rusher since 1999.

The Bulldogs went from eighth to fourth in the league in 2007 in total offense. They also went from fifth to third in total defense.

"There were a lot of improvements," Sullivan said. "We played a lot of young players. We're going to miss the seniors that have been here and done big things."

The biggest setback for the Bulldogs in 2007 was the lackluster play

of special teams. The Bulldogs came out of spring practice still looking for a punter and place kicker. Both positions departed the team after the 2006 season.

Sullivan said the missed and blocked field goals—along with erroneous turnovers—were the difference in a winning record.

"The frustrating thing about this year is if we could have gotten two or three more wins, we would be leaving with a good taste. We had a chance in several games. If we would have played a little more error free, we would have had a chance to get those close wins."

Still, we had success, and I can't thank our fans and students enough for their support," he said.

Several players agreed with the coach's assessment.

"It wasn't the season we were hoping for, but I think we definitely built up momentum for next year," Adcock said. The signal caller finished his Samford career third among Bulldog quarterbacks. "Record wise, we didn't

improve much but we put up some great numbers as a team."

Junior linebacker Rodney Shepherd also was pleased with the season's outcome, and said he looks forward to coming back for his senior year. Shepherd led the Bulldogs in tackles (88) for the second year in a row.

"We grew more as a team this year than in past seasons," Shepherd said. "We were able to put more trust in each other. We didn't point fingers like we have before."

Shepherd attributed the team's "growing up" to the quality performance of the newly-instated coaching staff.

"Coach Sullivan is a great guy and he's put together an excellent staff," Shepherd said. "Our coaches are very passionate about what they do, and they relate to us very well. They take pride and put forth a lot of effort."

Sullivan said the revamped program is off to a good start but still has a long way to go. He also said the move to the Southern Conference will require a more talented and skilled team.

"We've got to get more people in here that can make plays," Sullivan said. "We had a chance to win in each game we played. That's where we've got to find somebody to make a play—someone who can make a difference."

Sullivan also said those additional key play-makers would give the Bulldogs a much needed boost in the Southern Conference.

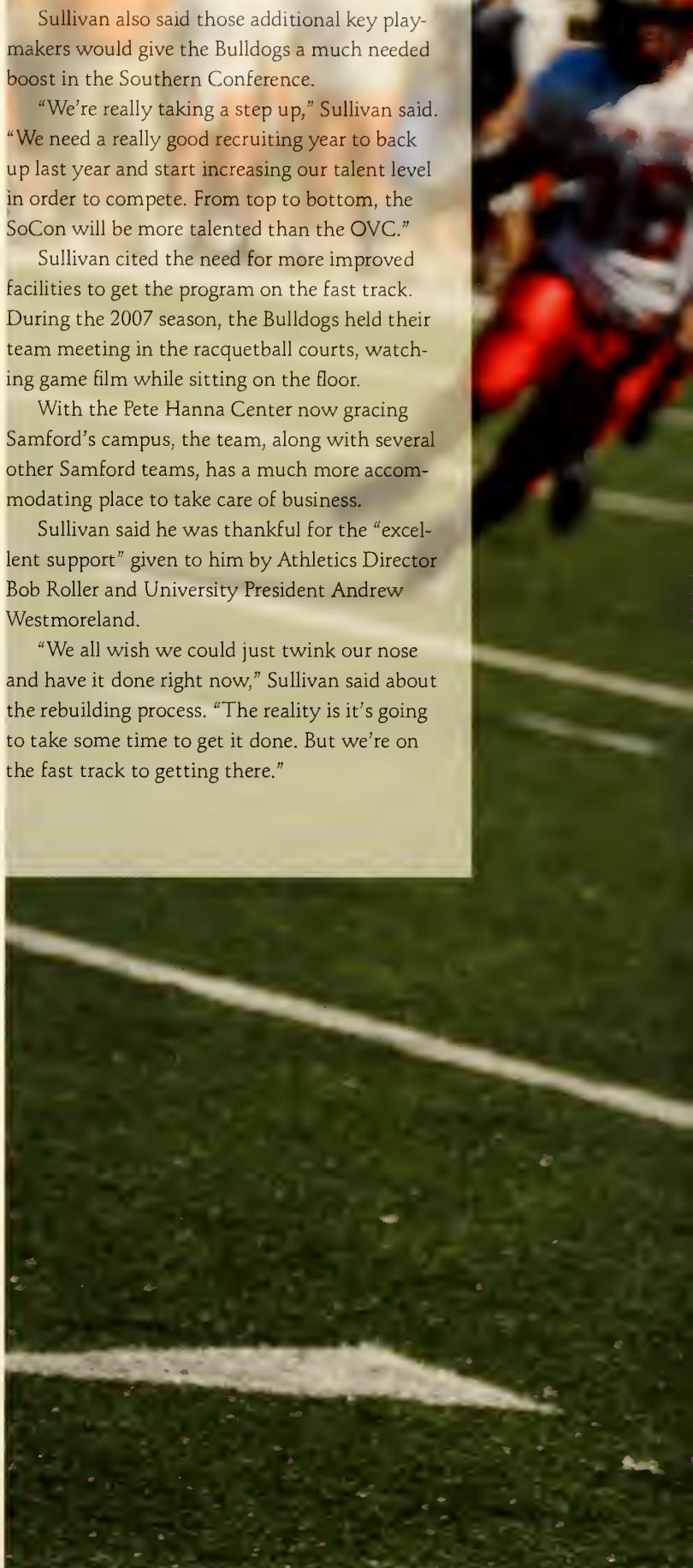
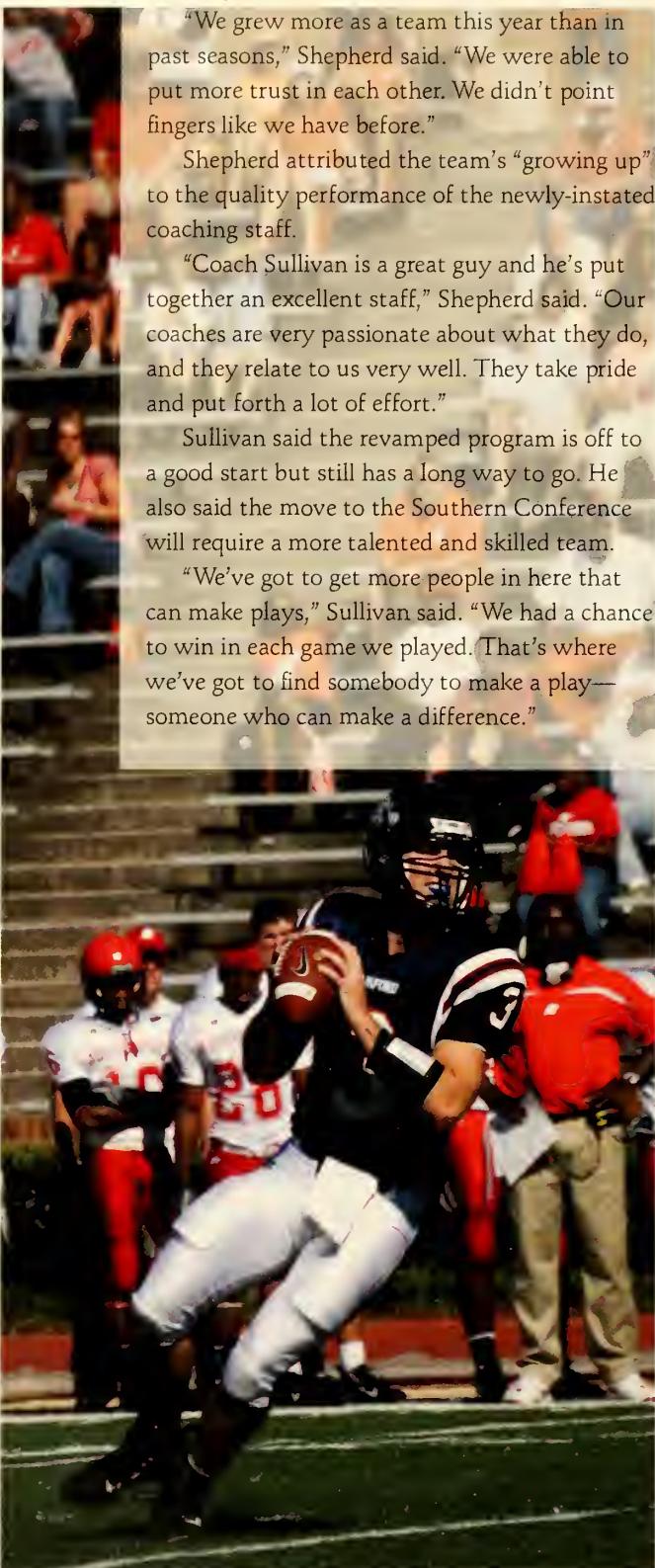
"We're really taking a step up," Sullivan said. "We need a really good recruiting year to back up last year and start increasing our talent level in order to compete. From top to bottom, the SoCon will be more talented than the OVC."

Sullivan cited the need for more improved facilities to get the program on the fast track. During the 2007 season, the Bulldogs held their team meeting in the racquetball courts, watching game film while sitting on the floor.

With the Pete Hanna Center now gracing Samford's campus, the team, along with several other Samford teams, has a much more accommodating place to take care of business.

Sullivan said he was thankful for the "excellent support" given to him by Athletics Director Bob Roller and University President Andrew Westmoreland.

"We all wish we could just twinkle our nose and have it done right now," Sullivan said about the rebuilding process. "The reality is it's going to take some time to get it done. But we're on the fast track to getting there."





# Setting New Standards

By Jackie Jaszc

Photos and Spread: Austin Richardson

Hard work pays off. The Samford volleyball team proved that this season by making Samford history. With depth to the roster and leadership from the captains, the Bulldogs were able to gain confidence and increase competitive play in their last season in the Ohio Valley Conference.

Working hard from day one with two-a-day workouts during pre-season training in early August, the team had a breakout season. After finishing last in the OVC the year before and being picked 10<sup>th</sup> in the pre-season polls, the team was out to prove everyone wrong.

"Our goals as a team were to make it to the OVC tournament and to have a winning record," captain junior libero Courtney Gay said.

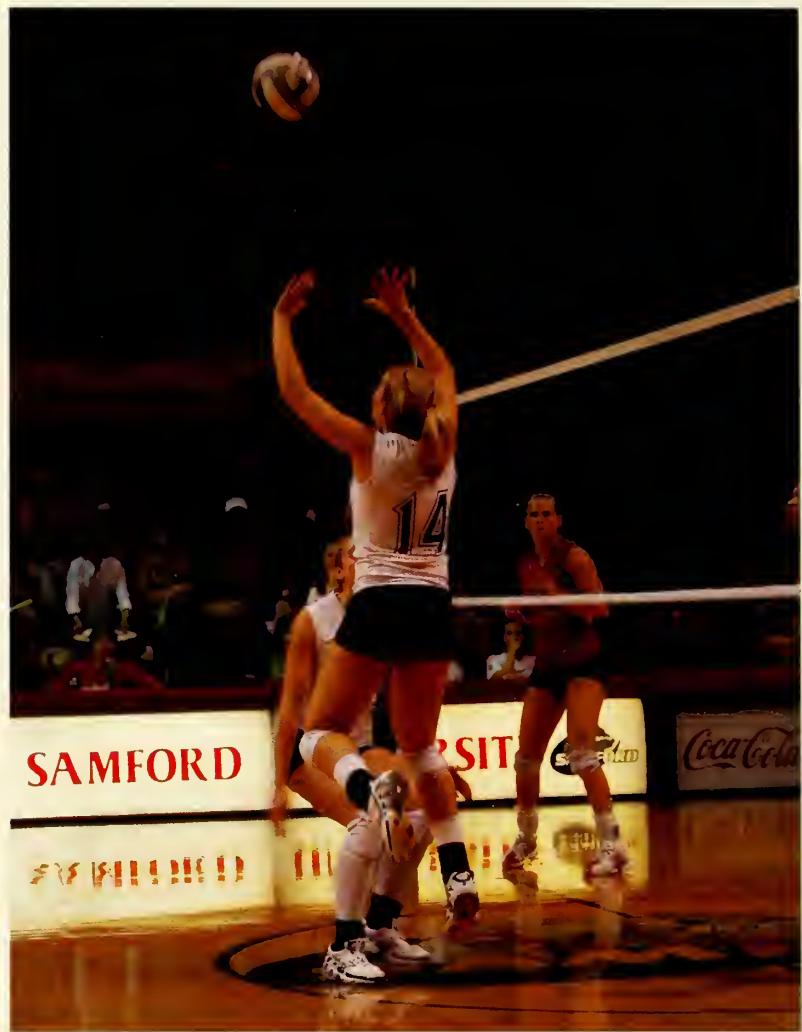
The team achieved the second of their two goals with the first winning season in 20 years of Samford volleyball history. Their first goal fell shy when they lost the sixth place tiebreak in the final OVC standings to rival Tennessee Tech University.

"I was very pleased with the first winning record in school history," head coach Michelle Durban said. "It was unfortunate that we didn't make it to the OVC due to the tiebreak, but I think having the first winning record in school history is more important for the program to continue to grow."

While the season was successful overall, it began with a rough start. The Bulldogs began competitive play at the Magic/Music City Invite in Nashville where they fell to both Lipscomb and Belmont. Although the season started off slow, the team was hungry for a win.

The first victory of the season came when they defeated UT-Chattanooga on August 29. Gay set a new Samford individual record during this match with 42 defensive digs, spurring up excitement and motivation for the team on the court.

The season continued at the Samford Invitational where they earned the championship title defeating both Troy and Coastal Carolina. Soon after, they traveled to Chicago for the DePaul Invitational where they beat South Alabama and Kennesaw State, but fell to DePaul in a close



five-game match. Their winning pre-season record gave the team confidence and the feeling of preparedness entering into conference play.

The Bulldogs kicked off their first conference game of the season with a win against Murray State, defeating the Racers 3-1. The Bulldogs went on to win 11 of 20 conference matches, including the match versus the top-ranked in-state rival Jacksonville State University.

"I think that the team was successful this year due to depth. Every single person added something to this team and I think everyone bought into the team mentality," Durban said. "The JSU match at home was the most memorable game. We had a great crowd, and for us to beat the number one team in the conference at the time, I think showed everyone that this program has arrived," Durban said.

The Bulldogs were lead by senior captain Angela Dempski and junior co-captain Courtney Gay.

"It was an amazing experience to be captain this year. I had a run at it my sophomore season, but I feel that being a senior and having more experience as a player made being a leader for the team so much easier. I wasn't always the best captain at times, but it really helps when you have teammates who are so great and are willing to follow your lead. Having Courtney as a co-captain was also really helpful," Dempski said.

The season ended with a two-game winning weekend in the new Pete Hanna Center. The match against Eastern Kentucky University was the first official sporting event in the arena. The Bulldogs swept the Colonels 3-0 to seal the first arena event with a win.

"We are really proud to be undefeated in the Pete Hanna Center. Hopefully we can continue that streak into next season," sophomore middle blocker Sheriden Stanghor said.

The last weekend of play sent seniors Dempski and Robin Bishop off on a good note. They said they were happy about getting to play their last two matches in the new arena.

The team finished 11-9 in conference matches and 16-13 overall. Stanghor and freshman setter Hillary Fountain were awarded post-season honors. Stanghor was named to the First Team All-OVC, and Fountain was named to the All-Newcomers List.

"I think the team will be very good next year. Only one starter graduated and 11 players are returning, so I think it will be another competitive year of volleyball," Durban said.

However, after the conclusion of the season, Samford athletics announced Durban as assistant athletics director for compliance. She stepped down as head coach to fulfill her new role in the athletics department.

Another big change for the team next year is the move to the Southern Conference. Durban believes the team will be able to step in and compete right away, especially with the boost of confidence from coming off of a winning season.

There are major adjustments to be made in the program before next fall, but the team is walking with their heads held high and confidence set in their steps.



# It takes time

By Britney Almaguer

Photos: Jon Londeen

Spread: Austin Richardson

The men's and women's cross country teams finished their 2007 season with outcomes a little different than what was originally expected.

As part of the sport, the runners are used to dealing with setbacks such as injuries, but more than a few athletes found themselves trying to overcome obstacles. From the very beginning of the season, many of the athletes were plagued with injuries. Rolled ankles, shin splits, back problems, stress reactions, fractures and a case of severe anemia affected the women's team this year.

Even though the women came in with multiple injuries and low expectations for the season, they continued to improve throughout the season. "I think the girls' team did amazing as a group this season. We always have setbacks, but this year we overcame more than ever," junior co-captain Katie Almand said.

At the Ohio Valley Conference Championship held locally at Spain Park in Hoover, the women earned second place as a team. Senior Lauren Blankenship placed 1st in the 5k race with a time of 17:26, followed by freshman Hillary Neal in 7th place and sophomore Lauren Pilcher in 13th place. Blankenship and Neal were named to the OVC First-Team, All-Conference, and Pilcher was named to the second-team,

All-Conference. With her strong performances, Blankenship was awarded OVC Female Runner of the Year for the third time in her career, while Neal was named OVC Freshman of the Year.

The women's team went on to compete in the 6k NCAA South Regional Championships against teams in the south region. The meet was held in Gainesville, Fla. The women placed eighth out of 20 teams. "I think our girls' team did extremely well. They ended the season better than what we had expected at the beginning. Getting eighth at regionals was an outstanding accomplishment and it bodes well for the future," Coach Glenn McWaters said.

Their placement was not only a surprise to the women, but to the other teams as well. "Everyone counted us out going into regionals, but we really came through and surprised them in the end. We pulled together as a team and that is what it's all about," Almand said.

Blankenship qualified for nationals placing in third overall with a time of 20:45. Freshman Jillian Klassen was the second runner to finish for the Samford women's team, followed by senior Britney Almaguer. Pilcher came in at 23:16 and sophomore Ina Ables at 23:28.

The NCAA Nationals, also a 6k race, was held in Terre Haute, Ind. Blankenship came in 24th receiving All-American honors, which is an award recognizing the top 25 runners in the nation. During the 2007 season, Blankenship was also named OVC Athlete-of-the-Week three out of nine weeks.

"Overall I'd say that I had a really strong season," said Blankenship. "There is nothing better than setting a goal, working hard at it, and seeing results come from that. I have no complaints for my last cross country season ever."

McWaters was pleased with his leader's last season as well. "Lauren did extremely well. I was very happy and pleased with her performance," McWaters said.

Although there were still a few of the athletes who did not perform as they had anticipated, they are looking forward to the next season. "This season was not what I wanted it to be; struggling through repetitive rolling of my right ankle and shin stress reactions, but the Lord has brought me through it. I'm really looking forward to track season, and I hope that it will go better," Ables said.

Klassen felt that it was a season of growth. While fighting a severe case of anemia most of the season, she still managed to place well at Regionals. "The doctor said I was so anemic she didn't know how I was walking up stairs on campus, let alone running. I feel like God really used that time to draw



me closer to Him, as He continues to teach me to depend on Him more. And perhaps I became a tougher runner too," she said.

While there were many notable performances on the women's side, the Samford men's team came out of the season very disappointed. With hard summer training behind them, the men had held high hopes regarding their upcoming season.

"We were looking to do really well. We really had a strong team coming into this year," senior co-captain Drew Anderwald said.

The men had all nine of their runners as returnees from the 2006 season, as well as two incoming freshmen: Scott Cope and Ross LaPorte. "At the time trials, we had the fastest times that we've ever had. We were thinking we could possibly place really well at conference, if not win it. Unfortunately it didn't pan out," Anderwald said.

The men had their own set of injuries ranging from stress fractures to knee problems and even to stitches in a hand resulting from pumpkin carving. With several men either running with injuries or on the sidelines, the men placed sixth

out of 11 teams in the conference championships. Anderwald led the way for the Bulldogs placing 13th with a time of 25:57, followed by red-shirt junior Bo Brawner who placed 20th and junior Cameron Bean who placed 24th. Anderwald was named second-team, All-Conference.

Brawner echoed the men's disappointment, but with another season of eligibility in cross country, he knows what it is going to take to see improvement. "I think that everyone else has just gotten better and we have not improved as much as they have. Upping our mileage and starting a weight training or plyometrics regiment is the next step in helping the team to reach our full potential," he said.

The men ended their season at the NCAA South Regional Championships placing 15th out of 19 teams. Anderwald again crossed the line first for the men with a time of 33:11, followed by Brawner in 33:20, sophomore Chas Keithan in 34:29. Sophomore Patrick Ollinger had a time of 34:45 and Cope had a time of 34:49.

The men and women cross country teams finished with eyes focused forward as they continued to train and work toward the indoor and outdoor track seasons.



# Running the Race of Perseverance

By Sarah Gardner

Photos: Courtesy of The Samford Crimson

Spread: Austin Richardson

The 2008 season brought multiple successes and individual honors for the men's and women's track and field team. However, the team faced one of their greatest mid-season challenges in school history: the dismissal of its long time record-setting head coach, Glenn McWaters.

With the elders leading the way, this year's team, including one of the largest freshmen classes in school history with 21, set and broke many school and personal records and proved that adversity on the outside does not affect what happens on the track.

Prior to the spring outdoor season, the team competed in multiple indoor track meets for preparation. The achievements of the team were immediate. However, the OVC indoor championships proved a tough trial for both teams as both finished fifth, despite setting multiple school records.

"I'm proud that the team was able to set so many school records during the indoor season," said sophomore middle-distance runner Elysse Rippe. "It says a lot about the conference that we only placed fifth. Although it wasn't how we wanted to finish, I think it helped because it motivated the team to work harder and get better for the outdoor season."

The hard work from the indoor season became evident



when several individuals posted standout performances in the first outdoor meet. Freshman Hillary Neal began her run to OVC Freshman of the Year, setting a school record in the 1500-meter race and finishing first in the event. In addition, eighteen Bulldogs placed in the top ten at the meet. Following the first outdoor meet of the season, the Bulldogs made history when four athletes from the same school received OVC honors in the same week.

The first Bulldog to qualify for the NCAA Mideast Regional Meet was senior All-American Lauren Blankenship, who won the women's 5,000-meter. Following her performance at this meet, Blankenship was once again named the OVC Female Track Athlete of the Week.

However, two other talented athletes walked away from the meet successful, but without the harvest of their work. Senior Michael Smith missed the regional qualifying mark by only seven-tenths of a second while Neal set a new all-time school record in the 1,500-meter event, but missed the regional qualifying mark by exactly one second.

It was at this point in the season when it was announced that 12-year head coach Glenn McWaters, who brought in four conference championships and Coach of the Year awards, as well as more than 150 school records, had been dismissed from Samford's coaching staff. He was temporarily suspended for a period of time before this announcement, but team members and Samford Athletics did not disclose any information until the official dismissal was announced.

Despite their confusion and sadness at the dismissal of their head coach, the Bulldogs pushed forward with assistant coach Chad James as the interim head coach. At the Georgia Bulldog Unlimited, Smith qualified for the NCAA Mideast Regional Meet in the men's 400-meter hurdles, overcoming the trials of losing his head coach and missing the mark in the previous meet. Also, Blankenship, along with seven other Bulldogs, set new personal best times, and two Bulldogs received weekly OVC honors.

Upon the completion of the regular season meets, Neal was named OVC Female Freshman of the Year for her outstanding accomplishments throughout the season, including setting the OVC's best times in both the 800 and 1,500-meter events during the regular season.

In the outdoor OVC Championships Meet, the Bulldogs outperformed themselves breaking multiple records, many of their own. The women finished second overall and captured their highest finish in school history, while the men finished fifth overall.



"Our women definitely came ready to compete," James said. "They all stepped up and did what they were asked to do."

Blankenship was named Female Athlete of the OVC Championships and picked up multiple All-OVC honors. Neal won the 800-meters event, finally qualifying her for the NCAA Mideast Regional Meet along with her time in the 1,500-meters race.

"Every person stepped up and performed to the ability that I knew they were capable of. This was the highest finish for both of these teams in the conference championships, and I think it's the perfect way to leave the OVC and head into the Southern Conference," James said.

The NCAA Mideast Regional Meet did not go as hoped for the three Bulldogs in competition. Blankenship, Smith and Neal did not finish in the top five of their respective events, which would have allowed them to automatically advance to the NCAA Championships. Blankenship finished seventh in the women's 5,000-meter, Smith finished 20th in the men's 400-meter hurdles and Neal finished 16th in the women's 1500-meter. Smith and Neal did not make it out of the preliminary round.

Blankenship was given a bid on June 3 to the National Meet after two runners ranked above her decided they would run in the 10,000-meter race instead of the 5,000-meter race. This moved her ranking up to number five, giving her the last spot of race eligibility.

The Bulldogs ended their time in the OVC on a positive note with expectations high for next season as they enter the Southern Conference. Prior to the 2008 season, Blankenship signed on as an assistant coach to the Bulldogs for the 2008-2009 cross country and track and field teams. She will be assisting new Samford Head Coach Rod Tiffin, who commenced his role as head coach on July 1, 2008. He comes to Samford from the University of Alabama after working as an assistant coach for 11 years. Tiffin was a former Auburn standout and brings passion and experience to the 2008 cross country team.

# One season, one team, one in history

By Val Kikkert

Photos: Bob Miller

Spread: Austin Richardson

Unity, perseverance, overcoming adversity; these are all words that can be used to describe the Samford women's soccer team this year. But when asked for a common theme or word to encompass the fall season, the team unanimously agreed on the word "one."

At the Ohio Valley Conference Tournament, senior captain Cassie Applegate passed out bracelets to each player with the word "one" on them. The bracelets stood for, "one game at a time...an audience of One...one dream...play as one...we are number one." Every girl wore her bracelet the entirety of the weekend as a reminder to the motivation behind the tournament and the season as a whole.

This season was a series of consecutive ups and downs for the team as they experienced many injuries and some close losses while making Samford history. The Bulldogs finished with an overall record of 15-5-1 and 8-1 in the OVC.

"I'm so proud of this group of players," head coach Todd Yelton said. "They never made excuses with players out due to injury. That's what you want to teach your kids, that's what you want to teach your players. It's a life lesson, everyone in life faces adversity, but if you go on to invest time and energy in it, then good things happen for you."

The initial roster was the largest it has ever been in program history with 26 girls on the team. However, the depth was utilized throughout the course of the season due to the frequency of injuries. Three girls tore their ACL's, one girl had a season-ending facial injury and many other girls visited the training room often for nagging minor injuries from August until November.

Head Athletic Trainer Michelle Johnson has been with the team for three years and said she has never experienced a season quite like this one before.

Despite the multitude of injuries, the team had a very successful season. After starting off with a pair of losses in preseason games, heads were held high and the team kicked-off their record with a winning weekend in the Samford Barber's Invitational tournament against state-neighbors Georgia Southern and Kennesaw State.

The Bulldogs played a total of eight games before beginning conference play on September 28. Their schedule was no easy task with games against high-ranked teams including Miami, Memphis, Indiana, High Point, Auburn and UAB. They put up a good fight against Miami, Indiana and Auburn, but lost all three games. However, the Bulldogs came up with wins against Memphis, High Point and UAB, which put the Bulldogs on the national RPI rankings radar and gave them a

boost of confidence entering into regular season play.

The Bulldogs dominated in the OVC with eight straight wins. On October 15, they jumped to number 14 in the Southeast Regional rankings, to stay there the remainder of the season, and number 32 in the national RPI rankings. This is the highest RPI in Bulldog soccer history.

However, the winning streak came to an end in the final game of the season when the team faced second-in-conference Southeast Missouri. The Bulldogs had to pull a win or a tie against the Redhawks in order to win their fifth-straight conference title and host the OVC Tournament. After playing a scoreless 100 minutes, the game went into the second overtime and the Redhawks finished a golden goal opportunity in the 102<sup>nd</sup> minute, winning the game, the conference and the right to host the conference tournament.

"That was one of the hardest days in my soccer career," senior Heather Birdsell said. "We had won conference the past four years in a row and to see SEMO just take it from us like that was devastating. But the season had been so great all the way through that I couldn't let that game bring the whole thing down."

Despite the heartbreak loss, the Bulldogs knew there was a big task in front of them to defeat SEMO on their own field for the conference championship and earn an automatic birth to the NCAA tournament. They spent the two weeks prior to the tournament training on the football field in order to get adjusted to the turf surface that they had to play on at the OVC tournament.

When the tournament came, the girls' determination and desire to win had never been stronger. After watching teammates suffer season-ending injuries, experiencing a heavy heartbreak loss to SEMO and going through three months of intense training and weight-lifting, the team was ready to rightfully take the OVC Tournament title for the last time before the move to the Southern Conference.

Going into the tournament, the Bulldogs thought they had seen their share of highs and lows for the season. However, the team lost 5-3 in penalty kicks to SEMO in the conference finals and felt the weight of the season come crashing down. For good, they thought.

Yelton encouraged the team to keep their heads up despite the emotional loss. Before the game he told his team that regardless of what was about to happen, he was so proud of them for always giving their best effort the entire season.

"I am extremely proud of this team. This was one of the most enjoyable seasons I've ever had coaching, and I wouldn't trade this group of kids for any other team," Yelton said.

Just when the team thought the season was over, their high rank of 40 in the national RPI rankings got them an at-large bid to the NCAA Tournament. The Bulldogs became

the first team in Samford and OVC history to receive a bid to the NCAA Tournament without winning the conference tournament.

The low feelings of defeat had to be quickly washed away to make room for focus on the big game at hand. The team spent the week training and then headed down to Florida State University in Tallahassee to play LSU, ranked second in the bracket, on Friday, November 9.

This was the Bulldogs' second NCAA Tournament appearance. They advanced to the second round in 2005 after defeating Vanderbilt in penalty kicks on their own field.

The Bulldogs lost to LSU in double over-time. Instead of heartache, the team rejoiced for the record-setting season they had, even with the over-time and penalty kick losses against SEMO. After the game, Yelton and the team celebrated their success, the opportunity they were given to be a part of the NCAA Tournament and the potential for the continually growing program.

This season brought in a multitude of records for the women's soccer team and Samford. Along with the at-large bid to the NCAA Tournament, the team set a school record with nine consecutive victories, earned the highest national RPI ranking the program has ever seen (32<sup>nd</sup>) and set the all-time single season scoring record of 43 goals, surpassing the previous record of 38 goals in the 2000 campaign.

"Every goal was a total team effort. It's amazing how well we all connected both on and off the field this season. We couldn't ask for anything better; the good and the bad. Everything happens for a reason, and this season was a great experience for the whole team," freshman leading scorer Lauren Cook said.

The fall semester concluded with the announcement of Yelton's ten-year contract signing. Since becoming the most victorious soccer coach in Bulldog soccer history, Yelton has gained national respect as one of the top women's collegiate soccer coaches in the country. He will continue to work toward making the program a top 25 team in the nation.

The "oneness" of the team held them together during the difficult times, but also led them to great accomplishments in the 2007 season. The women's soccer team will join all of Samford athletics in the move to the Southern Conference for the 2008 campaign.



# For the love of the game

By Matt Stamp

Photos: Courtesy of Men's Club Soccer

Spread: Austin Richardson

Sometimes the only benefits of adversity are the lessons learned throughout the process. This was the case for the men's club soccer team this year.

It was a difficult year for club as they struggled for consistency throughout the entire season. With their only win coming by way of a forfeit, the Bulldogs never really looked or felt comfortable with the roster they put on the field. Injuries to several key players led to an inability to maintain a consistent starting lineup and an apparent disadvantage in every game.

Expectations were high for this year's club team as the club was fairly successful last season and was returning several key starters.

"I thought we were going to have the best team that I had ever been a part of at Samford club," said fifth-year senior co-coach Brian Willett. "Last year, we had a really strong team, so I had very high expectations for the season."

Despite the roster consisting of a much younger team this season, the talent was advanced. The returnees felt there was a lot of potential for the Bulldogs to pick up where last year's team left off and comprise another strong club soccer season. However, no one expected a winning record to be an easy feat. The team played a rigorous schedule including Auburn

University, the University of Alabama, the University of Georgia, UT-Chattanooga and Ole Miss.

With the Bulldogs playing larger schools, momentum was extremely important if they wanted to remain competitive throughout the season. Unfortunately, the Bulldogs did not start off on the right foot. They lost 4-0 in their first game against Auburn University, playing a step behind the speedy club.

"This year we played the game against Auburn without our two starting forwards. A lot of guys didn't show and our 25-man roster dropped down to 15. We were beat 4-0 and just didn't really start off well," Willett said.

Momentum was also necessary to keep the younger players encouraged and pushing strong for a successful season. After a very rocky first outing, several younger players were discouraged, and that feeling was difficult for the club to shake as the season progressed.

"If you don't start off well, especially in club, guys aren't going to want to be nearly as willing to make sacrifices for the team," Willett said.

Injuries also played a large part in the disappointing season for the Bulldog club team. Forward junior co-coach Michael Bowles was injured for the majority of the season, and his position showed to be an especially difficult role to fill in each game. Without consistent scoring forwards, the Bulldogs failed to score a goal until their third game against the University of Georgia Bulldogs at home.

The inaugural goal of the season came from junior Cameron Searcy. Searcy struck a knuckle-ball shot from 45-yards out that eluded the UGA keeper and sent Samford fans into frenzy. Although it was only one goal, it was a light in a rut for the downtrodden Bulldog club team.

Searcy, one of the few consistent starters on the team, provided the club with dedication and determination to make the most of a difficult season, Willett said. Although younger players became easily discouraged and the team was lacking in unity off the field, each game was played with intensity by those dedicated to the game and to the team.

"Cameron has magic feet and amazing height; and he's very skilled," Anderson said.

Searcy, who stands a towering 6-foot-5-inches, had a large advantage in headers over opposing defenders, a skill that often went underutilized.

"I couldn't have been more proud of the guys when we were playing the games. We were usually getting beat, but everyone was still giving all they had," Willett said.



After the glimpse of success in the game against UGA, the Bulldogs continued on to lose their next three games, leaving them with a 0-6 record and one game remaining in the season. This last game provided the lone win of the season for the Bulldogs by way of a forfeit from UT-Chattanooga.

After finishing the regular season with a 1-7 record, the club went on to play in the regional tournament at the end of October where they faced George Mason University and a re-match against Auburn. Both games ended in a loss, officially bringing an end to the club soccer season.

Although a disappointing season on paper for the Bulldog club soccer team, there is still a positive outlook for next year because of the dedication from the team during the difficult times. If the majority of the players return, the team will have a base from which to build and experience to serve as a motivation to have a winning record.

"I think the team can be exponentially better if everyone has the same determination. I believe we could be 8-0 next year with the incoming talent and continued dedication from this year's team," Anderson said.

Sometimes you have to go through the heat and fire to be refined. It's not easy to lose, but winning isn't everything. There's always next year.



# Following the Leaders

By Jonathan Flowers

Photos and Spread: Austin Richardson

Dramatic endings are not always the best way to conclude a season, especially when you're on the side of defeat. However, lessons are always learned and improvements made when things do not end as they should.

The men's basketball team concluded their 2007-08 season with a triple overtime defeat from UT Martin, marking the second consecutive year the Bulldogs have been one game short of advancing to the OVC Tournament semifinals. They bid farewell to the OVC in a hard-fought game where head coach Jimmy Tillette

said, "They played like champions." Despite this effort, the Skyhawks moved on with a 101-94 victory, only to be defeated by Austin Peay in the semifinals.

Samford finished 5<sup>th</sup> with a record of 10-10 in their final run through OVC regular season play. They went 3-5 in OVC Tournament history, reaching as far as the finals in 2006. Next season, they will embark upon their first attempt at the Southern Conference, home of this year's NCAA Tournament Elite Eight participant Davidson.

The 2007-08 season was a time of both beginnings and ends for the Bulldogs. Along with the final run through the OVC, the team hosted their home games in the inaugural year of the brand new, \$32-million Pete Hanna Center. On the court, seniors through freshmen were called to step up to the line and perform in order to get the job done. There was never a flow of consecutive wins or losses, but the team learned perseverance through their 14-16 overall record.

The Bulldogs returned senior starters Joe Ross Merritt, Travis Peterson and Curtis West after each played pivotal roles in the their winning 16-15, 2006-07 season. West, a 6 foot guard from Baton Rouge, Louisiana, averaged 7.2 points in the team's first five games before suffering a season ending shoulder injury while practicing in preparation for Samford's pivotal match up against Florida State, where they lost 45-61 in Tallahassee. The upside to the point guard's misfortune, however, is that West was forced to red shirt and is expected to return to the team next season.

Merritt, younger brother of former Samford All-American forward J. Robert Merritt, was second in team scoring with 12.1 points per game while also logging 3.7 rebounds and 2.1 assists per contest. This year, the guard became Samford's all-time leader in games played with 121 games. As an experienced player, he was called to step up in the leadership role on the court and guide the younger players who were just beginning to get some playing time.

"It's been a lot different this season as a senior," Merritt said. "I remember when I was younger, especially in our offense, it seemed like I didn't know anything. Now, as a fifth-year senior, it's really the only way that I know how to play. I try to play hard all the time and I know that if I do that, the young guys will step up as well."

Merritt was an integral part to the Samford offense, but the player who stood out the most statistically was Peterson.



Expectations for Peterson's performance were high at the beginning of the season as he was named a member of the preseason All-OVC team. He concluded the season with second team All-OVC honors and was recognized as one of only eight players in all of the NCAA to lead his team in points, rebounds and assists. He notched an average of 13.2 points, 4.7 rebounds and 3.6 assists per game. Peterson finished his illustrious Samford career 16<sup>th</sup> on the school's all-time scoring list with 1,121 points, becoming the 21<sup>st</sup> player in Bulldog basketball history to eclipse to the 1,000 points mark.

The 6-foot-10 inch senior from Glendale, Arizona, has often been referred to as a "guard in a center's body."

"Growing up I always wanted to be a point guard," Peterson said. "I was always a pretty good ball handler. Even with the growth spurt, I was able to maintain my coordination and it ended up helping me fit into our offense here at Samford. It has been a great fit for me because it allows me to use the skill set that I developed in high school."

Peterson's presence in Samford's frontcourt will be sorely missed in the years to come as the Bulldog's seek to find a replacement for the versatile big man.

With the absence of both Merritt and Peterson next season, Samford will look to its young talent to lead the team into a crucial time of transition. True freshmen Josh Bedwell and Josh Davis played in a combined 57 of 60 games this season. The team returns key sophomore contributors Trey Montgomery and Bryan Friday. While the Bulldogs lose 42% of their scoring with the departure of Merritt and Peterson, many of Samford's young players are ready to step into leadership roles right away as the team looks to improve on its 14-16 record next season.

While the Bulldogs will undoubtedly feel the loss of two senior starters as they enter their first season in the Southern Conference next year, the development of the team's young talent has bred optimism for the squad's future. Samford will have to be on top of their game as the level of their competition immediately escalates. Regardless of the level of the Bulldog's prospective competition, the seemingly bright future of Samford men's basketball will lie solely in the hands of the team's budding young stars.







# There's No "I" in Team

By Kylie Swyden

Photos and Spread: Austin Richardson

The Lady Bulldogs had an eventful and successful season despite some unforeseen obstacles and disappointments. The team finished with a 23-9 record, marking the seniors as the most winning class in program history. This team was an exceptionally talented one, as there was not one shining player every game. Each girl was called to step up and play her role.

The Lady Bulldogs started off the season as the number two pick in the Ohio Valley Conference. Senior Taryn Towns was satisfied with the pick because the team felt they did not have to prove that they were on top of the conference at the start, as they have in years past. Indeed, the team did prove many things this season, especially when starting junior point guard Megan Wilderotter suffered an early ACL tear, benching her for the majority of the season. Before the injury, she was quick to say that the team unity and chemistry was one of

their strengths as a team. With Wilderotter's injury, players joined together and proved that teamwork was indeed a real strength of this year's group.

"There was not just one person who could score," said sophomore guard Monica Maxwell. "Everyone had the same attitude to win and there was no other reason anyone was on the court. We all have different personalities and I think that's why we worked so well together."

This year's team was unique in that they depended on themselves over anything and anyone else to win the games. Head coach Mike Morris was extremely proud of this team and had an unprecedented season with this specific group of players. "It's about us and the game we play," said Morris.

He is a coach with realistic goals and discernment as to what the team is capable of doing and how to make the most out of their different skills and abilities. This year's seniors exemplified strong leadership, evident in the crucial moments on the court throughout the season. Not only were the seniors important to results, but they were also examples for the younger players to mimic, specifically the freshmen.

However, two freshmen provided a mark of leadership on the court as well. Both Emily London and Savannah Hill notched OVC Freshman of the Week honors throughout the season. With five weekly honors, London received OVC Freshman of the Year and was Samford's lone representative on All-Conference teams (Second Team and All-Newcomer). London finished the season as team leader in scoring and second in assists, as well as leader in the OVC in three-point field goal percentage. Towns represented Samford and the senior class in accolades being named to the OVC All-Tournament team.

Juniors Chika Okoli, a forward, and Karmen Smith, a guard, played significant roles in the winning season, as both understood how to selflessly execute plays and work as team players. Senior Alex Munday was crucial to the offensive efforts of the season and her experience proved to be a necessary component to success.

With no one, stand-out player, the team was able to produce wins, regardless of who was on the court. This year's win against Eastern Illinois University in double overtime called for the team to step up together after playmaker Maxwell fouled out.

"It was a team effort and not just about one individual," Maxwell said.

At one point in the season, the team's record was 15-1, all wins being conference games. However, the season came to a disappointing end when the Lady Bulldogs lost to Murray State in the OVC Tournament semifinals. Nevertheless, these players took pride in their work and game and ended the season with their heads up, looking forward to the next opportunity to play as a team.









# Baseball Ends Strong in the OVC

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By Ryan England

Photos and Spread: Austin Richardson

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The baseball team completed one of the most successful seasons in the history of the program. The team finished the 2008 season with a 32-23 record overall and garnered a 19-7 record in OVC play, falling only behind in-state rival Jacksonville State in the final conference standings.

The team began the 2008 season with back-to-back losses at Kennesaw State, registering their first win of the year in the final game of that three-game series. Following the two losses at Kennesaw State, the Bulldogs seemed to turn things around quickly and jumped off to a great start winning 14 of the next 20 match ups. At one point in the season, the Bulldogs had a 16 game home winning streak, one of the longest home winning streaks in the nation.

The Bulldogs fell to Tennessee Tech 7-6 in the final game of the regular season, but their success throughout the rest of the season earned them a number two seeding in the OVC tournament and a bye in the first round.

The Bulldogs concluded the season with two losses in the OVC tournament, which was held in Paducah, Kentucky at Murray State. They fell 8-4 in the first game against Eastern Illinois, and followed that game up with a 9-1 loss to Tennessee Tech in the season finale. It was not the ending desired, but the national recognition from regular season play will put the Bulldogs in good standing going into the Southern Conference next year.

The year's club was led by junior First-Team All-OVC performer Michael Marseco. Marseco was also on the OVC All-Tournament team and was a 2006 Freshman All-American. He led the team in nearly every batting category, stolen bases and most games played. Marseco finished the year with a batting average of .419. He boasted a slugging percentage of .613, had an on-base percentage of .463, led the team in hits with 93 and led the team in runs scored with 52.

Senior Bear Burnett from Birmingham, AL led the Bulldogs in home runs with seven, followed by senior Michael Rutledge, a Cullman, AL native who transferred from Mississippi State. Earlier in the season, Rutledge faced a scary injury at Georgia State in which a foul ball ricocheted off of a dugout post and hit him in the right temple, knocking him out. Once headaches subsided, he returned to the field and was a crucial part of the Bulldogs' lineup.

The Bulldogs' pitching staff was led by junior Jonathan Stephens. His ERA was 2.22 through 81.0 innings pitched. Stephens registered seven wins on the season, followed by Trent Hill who was credited with six wins. Stephens totaled 43 strikeouts in his 81 innings pitched.

The Bulldog defense was solid throughout the year as well. Tripp Swann, Matthew Bennett, Bo Smith, Drew Reagan and Joe Durham all had a fielding percentage of 1.000 to lead the team.

This year's team will lose eight seniors, but the future looks bright for Coach Casey Dunn and his staff. A new beginning in the Southern Conference will give the Bulldogs different goals and challenges to face as they set new standards against the SoCon competition.







# Putting the Pieces Together

By Val Kikkert

Photos and Spread: Austin Richardson

Perseverance pays off; especially for the softball team. This year, the Bulldogs went from being ranked eighth in the OVC and on the edge of ending with the regular season, to finishing the season in the semifinal round of the OVC Tournament. After a rough start to the season, head coach Beanie Ketcham and the players did not let the lack of positive results hold them back from continuing to work toward a season of success.

Early on, the team faced some difficult challenges. To begin with, last year's starting pitcher Stephanie Royall experienced a season-ending injury before regular season play began, and the team was forced to look to two freshmen and a sophomore for leadership on the mound. Ketcham was aware of the pressure the young players were experiencing, but she said she felt all of the pitchers matured throughout the season.

Freshmen Kayla Burris and Margaret Carter shared the mound with sophomore Amanda Barrs, who started most of the games. All three finished with a close number of wins and saves each. Carter was injured midway through the season, but returned toward the end and received OVC Pitcher of the Week in the final series of regular season play.

Also early in the season, the team suffered a five-game losing streak, four of which were played at home. Conference play did not flow easily for the Bulldogs either as they lost four of their first five conference series match-ups. Ketcham said the team was doing everything right, but the pieces were just not being put together at the right time. The team was making too many costly errors that could have prevented some of the negative results at the end of the day.

The Bulldogs finally got their game

together midway through conference play. They won the final four series match-ups with tournament stakes on the line in the final two series verse Tennessee State and UT Martin.

With the much needed series victory over Tennessee State, the Bulldogs had to win two games against UT Martin to place sixth in the conference, which would lead them to the final seed in the tournament. In 2007, the Bulldogs lost to UT Martin in post-season play. However, Samford "returned the favor" in 2008 by sweeping the Skyhawks in



the three-game series and beating them out of a conference tournament seed. This was the first time UT Martin had not gone to the OVC Tournament since 2001.

As the last-placed team in the tournament, the Bulldogs came in and swept third-ranked Eastern Kentucky, to whom they had lost in conference play earlier this season. In game two of the day, the second round of the tournament, Samford shut out second-ranked Morehead State 3-0, another conference foe who had defeated them earlier in the season.

After flowing with the season-long

six-game winning streak, the Bulldogs' streak was snapped by first-ranked Jacksonville State in the semifinal round. However, the Bulldogs were given a second chance to make it to the finals by playing Tennessee Tech, who had also lost earlier in the tournament. After a close fight, the Golden Eagles defeated the Bulldogs 6-5, ending the season for Samford.

Samford went 25-29 overall this season. They set multiple individual and team records despite the slow start to the season. Junior Jessica Owens led the team in batting average with .330. She surpassed the school all-time hitting record of 59 hits, finishing the year with 60. Owens has also compiled the most stolen bases in her three-year career with 15, 19 and 20, setting her own record, as well as the all-time school record, in stolen bases this year. Owens was named to the First-Team All-OVC.

Barrs set the all-time record for runs batted in with 42 on the season. She surpassed the school record of 33 RBI. Barrs was named to the 2008 OVC All-Tournament Team along with senior Jeslyn Metcalf.

Finally, freshman Aaren Fisher represented Samford on the OVC All-Newcomer Team. As a true freshman, she started all 50 games of the season and finished second in RBI with 39. Fisher was also a competitor in the home runs and batting average categories on the team.

As a team, the Bulldogs' appearance to the semifinal round of the OVC Tournament was its first in school history. They finished sixth in their final season in the OVC. While the Bulldogs did not advance all the way to the finals, they learned that picking up the pieces and putting them together throughout the difficult times of the season leads to great rewards and success at the end.







# Freshmen Drive the Way

*By Ben Hankins:*

*Spread: Austin Richardson*

One key phrase describes the 2008 Samford men's golf team: a work in progress.

The Bulldogs failed to break into the top three in all of the tournaments in which they competed, but the team also started four freshmen on a team of five players down the stretch.

"We were very young this year, but because of that, I think we can only get better," head coach Woodie Eubanks said.

The team finished the season tying for seventh place in the OVC Championship. That finish followed a stretch of two previous tournaments in which the team failed to place in the top 15.

"As a team, we didn't finish well down the stretch of this season," Eubanks said. "But at the same time, I'm proud of how our guys didn't quit."

Samford's best performance came on March 16-18 at the Drake Diablo Invitational in Diablo, Calif. The team met its goal by breaking into the top five for the first time in 2008, finishing fourth in the tournament.

The Bulldogs bested seven other teams from around the country in Diablo. They shot one of their best rounds of the season on day two of the tourney, posting a 294, 38 strokes better than their score in round one. They finished the tournament with a third round score of 306, just four shots behind the winning team, Loyola College.

The Bulldogs met their goal one more time during the season, placing fifth at the Samford Invitational in Oneonta, Ala., the week before the Diablo invite.

The team was pleased with the top five finish, but was unable to capitalize on its home course at the Limestone Golf and Country Club. The Bulldogs dropped two spots in the final round.

"Our goal was to finish in the top five, and we achieved that goal. I think if we had had a better third round, we could have won the whole thing," Eubanks said.

The Bulldogs relied heavily on the freshman golfers but also received solid contribution from junior John Turnipseed, who was the lone upper-classmen starter on the team down the stretch of the season.

Turnipseed was fourth on the team in scoring, averaging 77.3 for the season. Freshmen Martin Bunt, Ian Cutting and Tyler Baird led Samford in scoring, each averaging within a half of a stroke of each other. Bunt shot 76.7, Cutting 76.8 and Baird 76.9. Freshman Houston Hough rounded out the Bulldog starters with an 80.6 scoring average for the season.

With combined rounds from a total of seven players, the team averaged 306.1 for the season. That score ranked the Bulldogs eighth out of ten competing teams in the OVC. With four starting freshmen, the Bulldogs were easily the youngest team in the conference.

Inexperience may be an understatement for this team. The Bulldogs top three scorers were freshmen. However, Eubanks said this was a positive for the future of the program.

"With the experience that our four freshmen got this year, I'm very excited about the future of this program," Eubanks said.



# Playing Above Par

By Ben Hankins

Spread: Austin Richardson

The women's golf team had one of its best seasons in school history in 2008, continuing to climb the ladder of conference and national approval.

The major highlight from the team's season was also a program first. In the team's first spring tournament, the Bulldogs made history by capturing the program's first ever tournament victory.

The Bulldogs bested a field of four other teams at the Ann Rhoads BSC Shootout at Timberline Golf Club in Calera, Ala. Birmingham Southern hosted the tournament, held Feb. 25 and 26.

"I'm so proud of the way our girls played in this tournament," head coach Eubanks said after the tournament. "This win makes me even more excited about the season, and it's such a great thing for our girls to be a part of history like this."

Coach Ian Thompson, who was the team's head coach prior to 2007 and now serves as an assistant, said the program's first victory carries a lot of weight in the future progression of the team.

"We're to the point now where we can always be in contention to win tournaments," Thompson said. "I am very proud of this team."

Most tournaments encounter perfect golfing weather, but Ann Rhoads was not the case. The team battled rain, damp conditions and at times, winds up to 30 mph on day two of the tournament—all while coming from behind to win.

Thompson said it says a lot about a team's character to come from behind on a day of bad weather.

Although the Ann Rhoads tourney was the team's only victory for the season, the Bulldogs posted other notable performances, as well.

The team placed third out of a field of 17 teams at the Larry Nelson Collegiate Invitational hosted by Kennesaw State on April 1.

The Bulldogs also got a sneak peak at future conference opponents. Three teams from the Southern Conference were represented, including nationally ranked Chattanooga.

Considering the Bulldogs were the fourth ranked team in the field, finishing third was a huge accomplishment, Thompson said.

The following week, the Bulldogs competed against some of the nation's elite teams while tying Kentucky for fifth place at the Alabama Crimson Tide Classic.

Many strong individual performances anchored the team throughout the season.

Sara Hunt and Kaitlin Stanier paced the team by finishing in the top 10 in conference scoring average. Hunt led the team in two tournaments, including a third place tie and All-Tournament ranking at the OVC Championship.

Maria Troche also stood out, leading the team in three tournaments and was named OVC Player-of-the-Week in women's golf for her performance in the Crimson Tide Classic.

Both Troche and Heather Arnold made the OVC's top 25 in scoring average. Arnold also placed second on the team in five different tournaments. She posted the team's best score in the Samford Invitational.

"We're a lot more competitive this season," Thompson said. "We've got more players that push each other to be better."

With the team's first victory behind them and plenty of strong performances to show for after the 2008 season, players say the best is yet to come for the women's golf team.

"We will gain a lot of momentum from this first win," Stanier said. "You can't put it into words how much that helps."



# Men's Tennis: Serving a Game of Their Own

By Britney Almaguer

Spread: Austin Richardson

The men's tennis team ended their OVC participation on the highest possible note. The team captured the OVC Championship title for the first time in five years, finally joining the women in sweeping the conference. The Bulldogs ended the season with an overall score of 17-8, 11-1 in OVC tournament play.

Unlike the women's side, who had only two seniors this year, the men had a lot of experience in tournament play with seven upperclassmen out of an eleven-player team. They were aiming high from the beginning of the season.

"Our goal this season was to get better every match, and finally win the OVC tournament," said senior Renan Silveira. And win they did.

From the start of the OVC Championship tournament, the standard was set high. In the first match, the men took the doubles point early in the tournament. By the end of the match, however, the points were tied between the Samford men and their rival, Jacksonville State. All the pressure was laid on senior Hank Grant. For Grant, it must have seemed like a bad case of flashbacks to his sophomore year when he was faced with the same enormous amount of pressure. This time fighting an injury, cramping and nerves, Grant's efforts were successful as he won the single point for the men, giving the men an overall score of 4-3.

"The feeling was indescribable," said Grant. "We've wanted this for three years and finally got it this year. I didn't know I'd have to work that hard to get it, but we finally did it."

Winning the conference tournament, the men were given the bid to play the Florida State Seminoles in the first round of the NCAA Tournament in Tallahassee, FL.

"This year we talked a lot about the process and doing the right things; not much about the result of winning or losing. That really helped us to achieve our goal, which was to win the OVC and represent Samford at the NCAA's," said Silveira.

Although the men fought hard at the NCAA tournament, they fell in the first round 4-0 to Florida State, who was seeded 14<sup>th</sup> in the nation.

"If our team keeps working hard and doing the right things we can be successful in the new conference," Silveira said.

The men are looking forward to competing next year as Samford makes the transition to the strong competition in the Southern Conference. Matching the women in winning the tournament was one goal for this team; now it's their turn to make their own mark in the new conference next year.





# Women's Tennis: Leaving Their Mark in the OVC

By Britney Almaguer

Spread: Austin Richardson

For the third time in just five years, the Samford women's tennis team advanced to the NCAA Championships after winning each of their matches against their Ohio Valley Conference opponents. Along with the men's tennis team, the women made the trip to Tallahassee, FL to play in the tournament that was scheduled for May 9-11. While they fell to Florida State in the first round of the NCAA Tournament, the team was not completely disappointed in their overall performance this past season, especially in light of the fact they had been an unranked team and had not played a Division I team all year.

Throughout the season, the team defied a lot of potential barriers, one of them being in the youth and lack of experience of the players. The team consisted of just two seniors while six freshmen entered to make their mark. As one of the seniors, Katie Weaver could say with confidence that their ages did not matter in the end.

"Having two seniors and six freshmen would seem like a setback to some," said Weaver. "However, our freshmen continually played well in important matches and came through in doubles and singles. I know that these girls are really the reason that we made it to the NCAA tournament."

The six freshmen included Karen Niszl, Taylor Morgan, Rebecca Kirven, Andrie Meiring, Lindsey Mallory and Lindsay Reidenbach.

Senior Anna Jackson was in agreement with her teammate in regards to their young team.

"The freshmen made it really easy," Jackson said. "Katie and I only had to lead by example and they caught on quickly. Their determination throughout the season is what led us to a championship win."

The women played well all year ending their regular season with a 17-5 overall record and an undefeated record of 10-0 in OVC play. Due to their high standing in the conference rankings, the team received a bye to the semifinals of the OVC Tournament and was able to move straight to the finals after their 4-0 win over UT-Martin.

After entering into the final stage as the number one seed, they took home the gold and the OVC Championship title after watching the men's team do just the same. The women defeated opponent Eastern Kentucky University 4-0. The freshmen led the women in taking the doubles point, with Morgan and Mallory winning 8-4 at the number two court, while Meiring and Kirven won 8-5 at the number three court. Their overall win gave the team an automatic bid to move on to the NCAA Tournament.

Although the women did not advance past the first round of the NCAA Tournament with Florida State claiming a 4-0 victory, the Bulldogs came out very positive about their season's performance.

"It was a really great experience making it to the NCAA tournament as a freshman. Not many get the chance to do that, so it was a really awesome feeling playing in it. We had worked all season for it, and once we had made it, it was proof that all of our hard work had paid off," Morgan said.

According to Jackson, the women accomplished many of the goals they had set out to acquire.

"The women's team goals were to be season champs, which we were, conference champs, which we were, and to be ranked, which we weren't. So we met two of three goals, which is a pretty huge feat," Jackson said.

The move to the Southern Conference next year will be a smooth change for the women.

"I think that we will only be stronger next year," said Morgan. "Doing as well as we did with six freshmen and two seniors was really spectacular. As we grow we will just get better and better. I think we will be a strong contender in the Southern Conference."

Overall, the team gave a stellar final-farewell performance in the Ohio Valley Conference and is more than ready as Samford makes the switch to a stronger, more challenging conference.



# More than a game

By Matt Robertson

Photos. Courtesy of Intramural Teams and Austin Richardson

Spread: Austin Richardson

Not every athlete on campus is blessed with the athletic ability or talent to land a sports scholarship or the opportunity to play for a collegiate athletics program. However, there are hundreds of former high school standouts who aren't yet ready to give up their athletic careers. That's why Samford has the intramural program.

Intramurals is one of the most participated-in activities at Samford. From independent to Greek, grad to undergrad, athlete or not, there is participation all across the board. Intramurals provides all different types of students the opportunity to compete, be active and play for a championship and the "coveted" T-shirt. Whether you were an all-conference athlete in high school, or you can't tell the difference between a home run and a touchdown, intramurals is a fun and competitive atmosphere for everyone.

The Samford intramurals program is run by Campus Recreation. The Campus Recreation mission is to "provide recreational programs and outdoor adventure activities that will enhance social, spiritual, emotional, intellectual, physical and vocational needs of students, faculty and staff and their spouses in an environment of Christian values. Campus Recreation strives to promote learning, fun, friendship, leadership development and sportsmanship in a Christian environment by offering quality competition and non-competitive programs and activities."

The director of Campus Recreation is Nick Madsen. This was the first year for intramurals Coordinator Peter Becker, Office Assistant Catherine Belew and interns Chris Pompa and Neil Ostlund to serve in intramurals. This staff works together, along with the help of student-workers, to make sure everything runs smoothly with games, scheduling and equipment. Student

referees and supervisors are also hired for every sport to facilitate competition.

Becker, who was in charge of all intramural scheduling and details, did not make any changes to the program this year in order to see how everything is run at Samford.

Samford intramurals offered eleven different sports throughout the fall and spring this year. In the fall, students could play flag football, tennis, bowling, dodge ball, ultimate Frisbee, volleyball, kickball and a 3v3 basketball tournament. In the spring, basketball, bowling, 3-point shootout, ultimate frisbee, soccer, softball, dodge ball, tennis, 4v4 flag football and 4v4 volleyball tournaments were offered.

Sophomore Kylie Swyden, who works for Campus Recreation, said intramurals are most fun when more people get involved.

"The more involvement from the students, the more teams there are and the more competitive it gets. This year was great because having so many teams allowed for the competition to be more evenly matched," Swyden said.

This year was a successful year for the intramurals program, and specifically for flag football. At least 70 teams participated in the program, providing for a very competitive atmosphere. The winner of the A-league, men and women, have the opportunity to go to the regional tournament each year. This year, Sigma Chi won the championship and went to the ACIS Regional Flag Football Tournament at Western Kentucky University, November 16-18. They placed third out of 32 teams in the tournament and were two points shy of winning, which would have given them a birth to nationals.

## Intramurals changed my life at Samford... It's a beautiful thing

Along with the quality competition, another aspect that makes intramurals at Samford so successful is the opportunity for all students—undergraduate or graduate—to participate. This year, there was a big turnout of students

from McWhorter School of Pharmacy and Beeson Divinity School, as well as some students from Cumberland School of Law.

"The greatest thing about intramurals at Samford is the camaraderie. Students care about being a part of this. It's been a great way to unify the campus," Madsen said.

Swyden added that intramurals is a great way for freshmen to get involved on campus and meet people. She said the freshmen participation in flag football was up this year.





Sophomore Justin Warden has taken advantage of intramurals as a way to get plugged in on campus since he arrived last year. He serves as the University Ministries intramurals coordinator and said he participated in as many sports as he could this year.

"Intramurals changed my life at Samford. It put me in a position to meet a lot of people, hang out with friends and have a great time. It's a beautiful thing," Warden said.

As coordinator for the University Ministries teams, Warden worked on recruiting students to be a part of the organization's teams. He compiled the initial e-mail list at the Student Organizations Fair and spent time developing teams throughout the year. Warden was persistent in getting student involvement and contributed to consistency in the Samford intramurals program.

One event that epitomizes the competitive intramurals action was the high-energy flag football game between the "Solja Boys" and "Stoagies." These two teams make up one group of friends, drawing intense but fun competition, and the fight for bragging rights. Fans and other friends who attended the game were torn about which team to cheer for.

"The game was really tense the whole time. We are best friends off the field, but out there, friendships meant nothing, we were just competitors competing in a game," Solja Boys sophomore quarterback Kyle Stanton said.

Despite the on-field heated competition between the two teams, the event drew

**The greatest thing about intramurals at Samford is the camaraderie. Students care about being a part of this. It's been a great way to unify the campus.**

the guys even closer together as friends with another fun experience under their belts.

"It was really exciting playing out there. You could



definitely feel the tension between the teams. We are such great friends off the field, but we definitely wanted to show each other up, though nobody would admit it. We left the field just as good of friends as when we came, and we had a great time. That was really the most important thing," Stoagies junior wide receiver Joel Allen said.

The competition was not restricted to just the men on Samford's campus. Some of the most heated intramural games of the year came in the form of all-female competition. Usually coached by guys, the girl's intramural games brought both sexes together for quality competition and fun memories.

"I love getting all excited and ready to play football games. We had playbooks and secret signs. It was pretty hard core," sophomore Amanda Rice said.

Intramurals brings everyone together in ways no other organization on campus can. Madsen said the intramurals program at Samford is above and beyond the programs at other schools our size. With the high participation rate each year, the variety of people in intramurals is constantly changing and growing, which refines and builds up Samford intramurals.



# Connect



# Family Band

Another year began bright and hot for the Samford Band as they filed into band camp over the summer to start yet another spectacular season of marching.

Some are veterans at the marching scene while others just started their careers. At least seven states and one foreign country were represented this year. They came together for two weeks of practice, united to achieve a common goal. Several unique traditions, a sense of community and their love for the Samford marching band connected them.

"Man, I love this band!" they cheered at the end of each game.

"If you've never heard us do that cheer, you're missing out," said sophomore band President Jannell McConnell.

This year, like each one before, new band members paired off with upperclassmen to form a "band family." Two upperclassmen served as "parents" for groups of two or three younger students.

"They kind of take them under their wing, and it's an opportunity for the older students to help the younger students find their way around campus and serve as mentors. It's also a way for us to get things accomplished," said Samford Director of Bands Dr. Jim Smisek.

Students had the opportunity to participate in social events during band camp such as a movie night and a scavenger hunt.

Some of the band's traditions reflected Samford's Christian atmosphere.

"We pray a lot and we sing and those are great traditions to have," Smisek said. In addition to playing pieces more traditionally associated with marching band, such as the school's fight song and alma mater, the band sang and played "It Is Well" after each performance. As the band neared Buchanan Hall after each game they also sang the Doxology.

This year's halftime show featured the music of American composer George Gershwin. "It's a really energetic show," said Perry Riddle, the band's graduate assistant. "It opened up with Piano Concerto in F and has a nice trumpet solo. We went into Summertime, which is one of his

more famous pieces, and Cuban Overture, a nice Latin piece, and then we closed with the famous Rhapsody in Blue."

Smisek plans to continue the rich traditions that have been developed while also bringing change to the band's existing program. The band worked this year to develop a more modern look and marching style including new uniforms and new instruments. The uniform and style changes met a positive response by both band members and the Samford community.

Another change Samford's band experienced was its growth to 64 members, beating last year's 51. The color guard also grew with seven new participants. "It's great because it adds to the visual presentation of the program," Smisek said, referring to the color guard. "Although Samford's band may seem small compared to other college bands, it is currently above the national average which is one percent of a school's student body," Smisek said.

The size of the band is relative to the size of the student body. "If you go to a school that has 30 to 40 thousand students and they have a 300 member band, you think 'Wow, that band's huge!' but you're not taking into account they have 40 or 30 thousand students," Smisek said. "It's a lot easier to recruit for that band when you have that many people."

The band's size helped foster a feeling of community among the members. "Samford's band is unique because our relatively small size allows us to all know each other better than we would in the kind of huge bands you find at state schools," McConnell said. "In a band this size, we are more of a family."



By Haley Aaron

Photos: Becky Ellenberger & Austin Richardson

Spread: Austin Richardson



# Dance Ensemble steps up to the plate

By Callan Donoho

Photo: Stephen Williams

Illustration and Spread: Austin Richardson

Did you know that dancing use to be forbidden at Samford? Sometime in the 1980s after a large Step Sing protest, the ban on the evil practice of gyrating one's body to the devil's music was lifted. Thankfully for us, this meant that organizations such as Samford's Dance Ensemble could make their way onto the scene. For the ensemble, 2006-2007 was a big year for all to see their hard work and talent.

As usual, the girls of the Dance Ensemble came back to Samford a week early and worked hard all semester. First, they learned football sideline cheers, and then it was on to the long practices for their annual show, this year's entitled *Step Up*. They participated in other events throughout the year as well. They showed off their talents in the Homecoming festivities, participated in halftime rallies and opened for Step Sing.

*Step Up* showcased a wide variety of dance styles including modern, hip-hop with Beyonce's *Get Me Bodied* and an interpretive dance from a scene in *Brave Heart* to put together a well thought out and very entertaining show.

"It is so good because we are such a diverse group of dancers," Co-captain Morgan Glasscock said. To go along with the name of their show, they ended their performance with a song from the movie *Step Up*.

The two co-captains of the student lead ensemble this year were Abbey Bailey and Morgan Glasscock. This was Bailey's fourth year on the Dance Ensemble and Glasscock's third. Each of the two girls had their own solos showing off their particular dance styles in *Step Up*. A personal dance style is something important that they look for during their tryouts each May. Also, the more dance styles the girls know, the better. After tryouts last May, they came out with twelve girls, a number which varies each year and does not depend on class level.

"It's neat having a variety of ages within the group, from freshmen to seniors," said Bailey. The group prides themselves on maintaining a good atmosphere among one another and seniority is not an issue.

The girls that make up the dance team have to be hard working, committed and have a love for dancing. "They are determined, and they have a passion for it," Glasscock said. "It's just a fun way to get plugged into Samford," Bailey said. These girls really enjoyed what they do and really loved dancing. Many girls joined the Dance Ensemble to have an outlet for dance while they are in college.

Dance Ensemble was completely student led this year as they have been in the past. They choreographed all of their dances from the halftime routines to the big performance in December. While this gave a lot more creative input to the team, it also took up a lot of time. Furthermore, the team had to fund itself. After their shows, they tried to have fundraisers so that they could have more events. "What we do is what happens," Bailey said.

One of the overall goals of Dance Ensemble was to enhance the atmosphere at Samford by supporting athletics and the arts in general. They brought something different to Samford and increased spirit among the students and faculty.





# SGA

By Shannon Dille

Photos: Courtesy of SGA

Spread: Austin Richardson



Ever wondered who really gets things done around campus? The Student Government Association just might be the culprit. Samford University's SGA has been working hard this year to make our campus a better place. Its members have maintained their status as an approachable, hardworking group of individuals that is dedicated to the service of the student body. From the board of executives to the student activities council, each group is heavily involved in making Samford the place that its students know and love.

Independents and Greek life members alike are welcome to participate in the tradition that is Samford's Student Government Association. SGA's Chief Justice and Senior Chi Omega member, Betsy Martin, knows the value of getting involved in student life. "I've enjoyed getting to know a lot of people from different parts of campus including independents and Greeks. I think that being a member of SGA helped me to make an effort to meet other people and to not only give my time to Chi Omega," said Martin.

Martin also said that she has enjoyed working with the student executive board in particular. "Every week, seven of

us meet with the student ministries council and traffic appeal and accomplish a lot during our meetings."

One of the areas in which many of Samford's students can relate to is the parking issues that seem to persist on campus. According to SGA members, traffic appeals were a primary goal for SGA during the fall semester. Another issue that arose this year was concerning vandalism. With last year's construction of a new parking deck, it seems that this secluded spot has been a prime place for car break-ins. This threat to student's security prompted SGA members to take action. According to Senior Sports Medicine Major and Vice President of the SGA Senate, Sam McBride, the organization has been working closely with Chief Bobby Breed of Campus security. Their goal is to work together in order to obtain a security camera system for the parking decks on campus to minimize these break-ins and create a safer university.

Of course, the SGA is probably best known for the activities that they organize to get students involved. Vice President for Development, Madeline Mula, was in charge of organizing the Angel Tree this year. The Angel Tree is an

event sponsored by the Salvation Army and Fox News that gives everyone the chance to "Be an Angel for an Angel" during the Christmas season. Those who adopt an angel will have the opportunity to make sure that a child will have the Christmas that he or she would not otherwise have. Mula is also in charge of public relations for SGA. "I get to come up with creative ways to get the word out about our events like using sidewalk chalk or mailbox notes," said Mula.

SGA class representatives were also hard at work to promote campus unity through holding such events. Sophomore Class President, Stephen Moss, organized a barbecue in the fall for his class, and free prizes were given away for those who attended. Stephen also began the "Sophomore of the Month Program" in an attempt to give people the credit that they deserved when they made a contribution to the Samford community.

"I was thinking that a lot of athletes don't get the recognition that they deserve and decided to do something about it.

Then I realized that in reality, a lot of students don't get the recognition that they deserve," said Moss. This program was organized to promote the recognition of those who contribute to any group on campus whether they are actors or athletes. Anyone who used their talents for the benefit of the community was entitled to such an honor. According to McBride, activities such as these "help the student body to have an identity and promote unity on campus."

Those who wish to get involved in the SGA organization don't have to be elected to do so. According to article III of the SGA constitution, "all registered students at Samford University are, upon enrollment, members of this organization... members shall have the right to participate in all activities sponsored by the Student Government Association and members shall have the right to vote in all elections sponsored by the Student Government Association." Through the SGA, everyone has the potential to help make the Samford University experience a fun, safe and fulfilling one.



# Student Recruitment Team

By Hayden Hamrick

Photos: Becky Ellenberger

Spread: Austin Richardson

Often overlooked, The Student Recruitment Team is vital to Samford. They meet, greet and escort potential students and their parents as they decide whether or not Samford is the place for them.

"The members of SRT are the first impression that prospective students have of Samford; so for them, we are literally the face of Samford," said SRT Vice-President and senior Erin Basinger.

The SRT was hard at work again this year as they planned and supervised campus tours, preview days and Scholar's Day. The team led and participated in the four Preview Days that occurred during the fall semester. Preview Days are designated days in which high school juniors and seniors are invited on-campus to catch a glimpse of the Samford experience.

"When students leave Preview Days and campus visits, we want to help them know that this is where they want to be," said Basinger. "The impression that we leave on those students could make or break their decision to come to Samford University."

The days began with a welcome from Samford President Dr. Andrew Westmoreland and Dean of Admissions and Financial Aid Dr. Phil Kimrey. Also, Matt Kerlin, University Minister, discussed Samford's Christian environment. Visitors were then led into separate information sessions geared toward potential students and their parents. The student sessions covered topics such as academics, dorm life, organizations, community service, financial aid and Student Ministries. For the parents, the topics included admission information, scholarships, weekend activities, safety, campus values, the Christian environment and more. SRT also led the visitors around the campus on tours on Preview Days.

"Our job on SRT is basically to be an extensive tour guide and advocate for Samford," said Meg Lozner, a junior SRT member.

The main responsibility of SRT this winter was Scholars Day held in February. During Scholars Day, the top 100 high school students applying to Samford visited the campus for interviews to compete for Beeson or Presidential Scholarships. On this day, it was the Student Recruitment Team's job to lead the students around campus and assist in making the prospective scholars feel welcome.

Although only Scholars Day and Fall Preview Days are the main responsibilities of SRT each year, the planning that it takes to pull these days off is tremendous. It often takes months to coordinate everything needed to make these days go smoothly. Yet the members do not mind.

"I love Samford, and I want everyone to have the opportunity to realize how incredible the Samford community is," said junior SRT member Madeline Mula.

"The Student Recruitment Team exists to be a student representation of Samford University to prospective students," said Lauren Lunceford, a junior SRT member. "We have a passion for our university and we desire to help prospective students get a feel for Samford and assist them in their college search."





# Samford's Student Ministries

by Jordan Jarvis

Photos: Becky Ellenberger

Spread: Austin Richardson

Each year, many Samford students answer the call to serve those around them in the community. In response, Samford's Student Ministries try to offer all students the chance to serve God and the community at the same time through their many activities and groups.

Samford not only provides opportunities for students to meet with ministries that hold similar theological views, but also provides several outlets for students' passions for growing in God, making an impact in the community or even standing for social justice and change. Samford students were involved in many different ministries and organizations on and off campus, including University Christian Fellowship, Young Life, University Ministries, Campus Outreach and Reformed University Fellowship.

University Ministries, known as "UM" among Samford students, offered the Samford community chances for spiritual growth on a personal level and opportunities to be involved in the Birmingham area as well as various communities throughout America and even the world. Operating from their motto "Love God; love people; change the world," UM was the primary ministry organization on Samford's campus.

University Ministries provided all kinds of activities and programs to not only educate students but to get them involved with social justice and the community. Some activities that occurred this year included Justice Under the Lights, spring break mission trips to places such as Perry County, New York, Louisville, Kentucky and various Habitat for Humanity projects. Ministries also hosted a common meal and Shiloh, a service to combine worship, scripture reading, art and communion.

Other activities for students included weekly visits to a juvenile detention center and Ville Crew, where students have the opportunity to play with children in Loveman's Village every Saturday morning. Sophomore pre-med major Anna Smith, who heads-up the Wednesday night trips to the juvenile detention center, said, "I really like the way UM networks so many different things; it serves to cultivate intimacy with God, a heart for the world, for justice issues and for the community of Birmingham. They help people find and live-out their passions. It's just like Matt always says, 'Your greatest passion meeting the world's greatest need.'"

Also included in UM's long list of programs this year were some fine arts programs. Student Ministries Choir, In His Hands, a ministry in which students use sign language to interpret worship music, and Word Players, which reaches audiences through drama all were a major part of UM this year.

Another ministry that found a place at Samford University was Reformed University Fellowship, or RUF, which was led by Jason Sterling and intern Blake Hodges. Those with reformed theology found a home on Monday nights in Samford's Flag Colonnade where the group had their weekly meetings. RUF had much student involvement through prayer, worship leading, set-up and publicity. Meetings included some worship, scripture reading and a sermon by Sterling, with fellowship afterwards downstairs in O'Henry's.

Sophomore math education major Amanda McPhail said, "The small community has been a positive aspect. You can be real with people and get to know them very well. Jason is a very open approachable, honest person and his bible study and sermons are conducive to spiritual growth." Other RUF



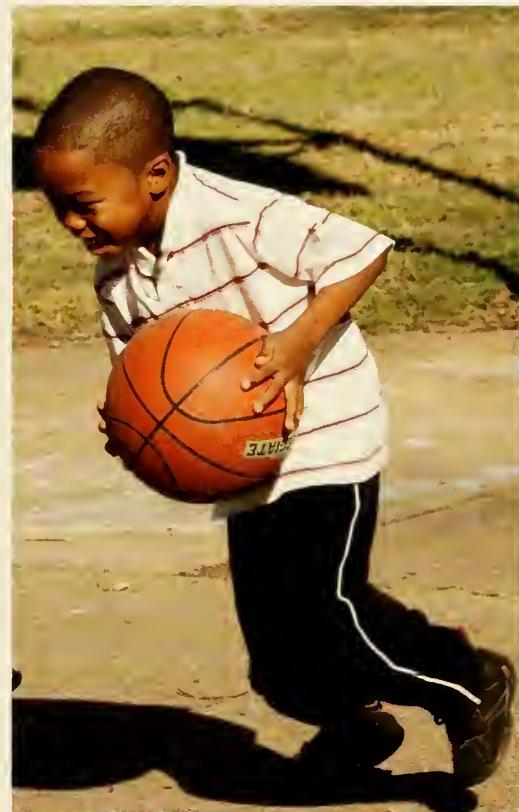


activities this semester included a Wednesday night freshmen bible study at the Sterling home, two upper classmen studies at off-campus student homes, a fall and winter retreat and an annual summer conference in which other RUF groups attend from various Southeastern colleges.

Campus Outreach was another ministry that made its presence known at Samford. . Campus Outreach met on Monday nights and provided students with bible studies and a New Year's conference in Nashville, Tennessee. It was also best known for its annual summer Beach Project. The Beach Project allowed students to have a taste of the real, working world and were taught how to manage their time and money and how to remain firm in God in the midst of being in the real world.

Junior interior design major Laura Morello said, "Beach Project was really cool because it let me experience an emotional high place with Jesus in the day to day. I worked at Starbucks almost full-time and learned to have a steady job and incorporate Jesus in it. I had never actively evangelized before and a lot of the people at Starbucks needed a good Christian example." Ultimately, Campus Outreach instructed students on "how to make an impact on a community and evangelize while keeping Jesus first in the midst of busyness," said Morello.

Samford students consider it a blessing to be a part of a school that provides multiple outlets for worship, service, prayer and ultimately knowing God more. Whether a student's heart was for local missions or worshiping through sign language, Samford provided an incredible number of outlets and opportunities.



# Samford Ministries Choir

By Destiny Soria

Spread: Austin Richardson

Singing for the Lord and for others was not the only goal of Samford Ministries Choir this year. They were by no means merely a singing group. The choir certainly made beautiful music, but its focus was deeper than perfecting harmonies.

One of the verses that the choir adopted as its creed is *Hebrews 10:24*, “And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and good works.” As SMC local missions officer Rebekah Wood said, “Samford Ministries Choir is a group of people who love to sing but are more concerned with showing Christ to others any way that we can, whether it’s through singing or other ministries.”

Other ministries that SMC took on this year included fixing up Samford’s missionary-in-residence house, painting classrooms in Tarrant and service projects in Tennessee and Florida.

Samford Ministries Choir is still a choir by definition though and certainly performed its share of concerts. This year, SMC made local appearances at First Baptist Church Sandusky, First Baptist Church Birmingham, Westmont Baptist Church’s Samford Day and New Beginnings Family Baptist Church.

Perhaps the highlights of the year for SMC were the two service trips: mini and main tour. In the fall semester, SMC members enjoyed three days in Nashville, Tennessee while on their main tour and stayed at Forest Hills United Methodist Church. At the local Salvation Army, they helped organize clothes so the store could better serve its customers. They also performed two concerts during their stay.

During the first five days of spring break, SMC went on main tour in Tampa, Florida. Woodland Baptist Church provided lodging for them and offered them opportunities to serve the communities with several different service projects. These included painting at the Women’s Club, general cleanup at the Community Center in a low income area, volunteering at a Walk for Life, performing manual labor at an Eagles Boys’ Camp and even playing with the puppies at a training academy for seeing-eye dogs. Who says community service can’t be fun?

Concerts on main tour were performed at Woodland Baptist Church and First Baptist Church of St. Petersburg, as well as Sunnyside Manor and Freedom Village, two assisted living homes. After the concert in Sunnyside Manor, members of SMC especially enjoyed ministering to the bedridden patients by giving private concerts in patients’ rooms and even performing some songs while walking through the halls. “You could just tell how much it touched them that we would sing for them, but it also touched us. Their faces are engraved on my heart,” said choir director Allison Nygaard.

A second verse that is central to SMC is *1 Corinthians 12: 12-13*, “For as the body is one, and hath many members, and all the members of that one body, being many, are one body: so also is Christ. For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body.” In order to celebrate its function as part of the body of Christ, SMC encouraged bonding among its members. Throughout this year, choir socials were hosted to bring members closer together. One of these was held at SoHo Sweets. In the words of freshman Rebecca Glenn, these socials helped members to “have fun and build relationships as well.” The relationships that were built during practice and choir socials helped members to realize their purpose as one body in Christ.

Samford Ministries Choir obviously broke the mold of a normal choir. With *Hebrews 10:24* and *1 Corinthians 12: 12-13* as its central creeds, it’s apparent that SMC focused on more than hymns and harmonies. Nygaard said, “Not only do we come together to sing, but we come together to connect on a friendship level, a familial level and also on a spiritual level.”



# A Trip to Africa: One Samford Student's Story

By Jessica Casto and Bob Miller

Photos: Bob Miller

Spread: Austin Richardson

From dodging rioting crowds to jumping cargo planes, senior graphic design major Bob Miller saw and did it all while in eastern Africa. Miller traveled to Kenya and Sudan with cameras in hand during the Christmas break of 2007 to document the stories of people who have been effected by Sudan's civil war. The story he found was so important, he felt it had to be documented and shared with all.

"I went to Kenya and Sudan with the intention of working with several indigenous pastors responsible for ministering to communities that are repatriating to Southern Sudan. Hundreds of thousands of displaced Sudanese are currently in the middle of the long and arduous process of leaving the refugee camps that have housed some of them for over two decades to return to their home in the southern part of Sudan.

"What makes the job of these pastors difficult is the dire condition of the land (scorched earth tactics and other brutalities from years of civil war have left entire communities decimated) and the low morale of the people. The Sudanese have been battling their own government since independence in the '50s, and they are now attempting to travel en masse back home in order to vote for secession from the north in the 2011 referendum.

"My goal was to document the challenge these pastors are facing through this process. Most of the pastors and their families are Sudanese, but they are based in Nairobi, Kenya, due to the displacement.

"When I arrived in Nairobi to meet with one of these pastors and travel to Sudan, election violence surrounding the

rigging of the presidential votes erupted and put a halt to my efforts to receive proper documentation for the trip to Sudan. I was stranded.

"For the next two weeks I diverted my efforts to covering the story of the election riots on the ground, from Kibera slum to the city center streets. I also followed the conditions of the displaced.

"Two weeks into my trip I flew north to Lokichoggio, a Kenyan town on the border with Sudan, where I visited Kakuma refugee camp and jumped a cargo plane into Jaach, Southern Sudan, where I stayed on the ground for a few hours while supplies were dropped for a community of repatriating Sudanese there. Later that day, I came back on the same flight, because I didn't have proper documentation to be there.

"I was in Kenya and Sudan for a total of about three and a half weeks, but I intend to go back within the year to carry out more of my original intentions with the story on the Sudanese pastors."

Miller will have prints available for sale at Birmingham's ArtWalk in September of 2008 to benefit Persecution Project Foundation, the non-profit that is responsible for facilitating the work of several of the Sudanese pastors. Miller will also be showing a multimedia project based around interviews taken from the subjects of the pictures.

To read the full story, view a gallery of images from the trip or find out more on how you can get involved helping the subjects of the pictures, visit [www.plusbob.com/kenya](http://www.plusbob.com/kenya).





# Reforming Faith

By Haley Aaron

Spread: Austin Richardson

You've probably seen the signs across campus advertising RUF. Maybe you've seen the one placed in Ben Brown Plaza on Mondays in the fall and remember that meetings begin at 8 p.m. Maybe you have stopped and wondered what RUF was.

Samford's Reformed University Fellowship program is part of a string of campus ministries across the nation. RUF is sponsored by the Presbyterian Church in America. The group encourages all students to participate no matter what their religious or denominational preferences.

"Students from a wide variety of church and religious backgrounds are involved here at Samford," RUF campus minister Jason Sterling said.

Through participating in RUF, Sterling hopes students are able to develop a stronger personal faith. "We believe that Christian life is not primarily about what we do, but rather who we are," he said. "RUF is focused on helping students learn to live all of life in light of God's Word and his work on their behalf."

RUF strives to be a biblically focused group, and Sterling said that this biblical focus is especially important. "Our lives and relationships are better, more mature and more fulfilling when we are being transformed and seriously affected by a real encounter with God's Word, which is the only infallible rule of faith and practice," Sterling said. "It's primarily through the preaching of the Word that Christians are equipped to think and live biblically and unbelievers are challenged to put their faith in Christ."

RUF fosters community building and developing meaningful spiritual relationships between students. "The Christian faith is not something that can be lived out alone," Sterling said. "God has designed us to need fellowship for regular Christian growth."

Junior classics major Cole Farmer said that participating in RUF allowed him to meet many new people. "I started going to RUF as a freshman, and so a good portion of the people there were upperclassmen," he said. "They were incredibly inviting people and very liberal with their friendship. I looked up to them, and I feel that I learned a lot from them."

RUF holds weekly large group meetings on campus, and the group also hosts smaller group Bible studies for freshmen and upperclassmen. During large group meetings, students come to sing hymns and listen to a sermon.

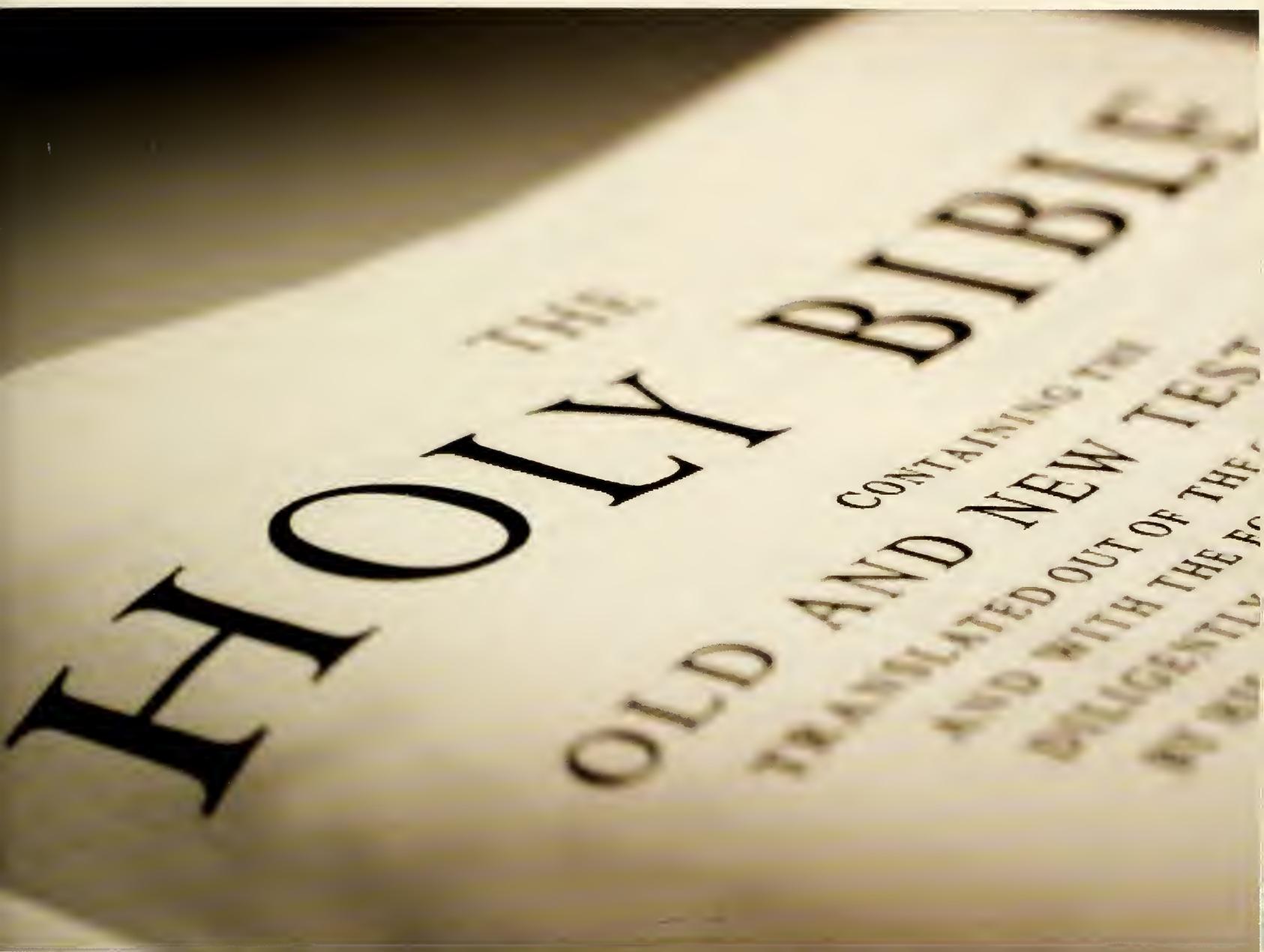
Students can participate in either program or become involved with both programs. Sophomore English major Anna Bedsole finds participating in both groups beneficial. "On Monday nights I get to worship Christ and hear the Word of God. It's a good start to the week," she said. "Wednesday provides the fellowship and discussion of the Bible that are also important in the Christian life."

While both the large and small groups help students find a sense of Christian community at Samford, Sterling said that the smaller groups are an important part of developing a sense of community.

Small groups typically consist of between eight and 15 students. During the fall semester, three small groups met to discuss various topics. One freshman group was formed, while two Bible studies for upperclassmen were held.

Through participating in the small groups, students are able to develop lasting relationships with other students who participate in the group. "The small group played a vital part in connecting me to a group of wonderful people," Bedsole said. "God has ministered to me most through giving me friends who cry with me when I hurt and rejoice with me when I'm glad."

By interacting with others in groups such as RUF, Samford students have the opportunity to meet other students and grow spiritually. "At RUF you will be challenged and encouraged and pointed to Christ," Bedsole said.



# Gamma Sigma Sigma

By Lindsey Vaughan

Photos: Courtesy of Gamma Sigma Sigma

Spread: Austin Richardson

Gamma Sigma Sigma puts a spin on the traditional idea of a sorority. It is distinctive in that it is the only service sorority on campus. Its main focus is bringing its members together to serve the community.

"Gamma Sig's goal is to foster a relationship between different girls and encourage them to serve in the ways they've been called in order to reach the community in a unique way," said junior biology and classics major and Vice President of Service Kara Graves.

One of the unique ways in which Gamma Sig serves the community happens on Halloween. Every year on October 31, the group shows the community that Halloween can be about more than just costumes and candy. The girls go trick-or-treating for canned goods which are then donated to United Way. Trick-or-treating for cans was a fun tradition once again this year.

Another service project that is important to Gamma Sigma Sigma is its Christmas party for children in the underprivileged area of Titusville. The sorority traveled to the Titusville Library in December to bring gifts, play games and spend time with the children that live in the area. Graves said that service opportunities like this end up impacting the members of Gamma Sig just as much as they impact the people they're serving.

Gamma Sigma Sigma is always looking for new and unique ways to serve. Last year, the group began what will undoubtedly be a new tradition. The members set aside one month to cook dinner for the Vestavia Fire Department one night a week for the entire month.

"We feel so blessed to be able to serve local heroes here in our community," junior elementary education major and President Megan Delaney said.

Also, Gamma Sig is becoming involved with more places in the community every year. This year, the members painted wagons and made Christmas ornaments for the Birmingham Children's Hospital and also helped with childcare for a local church.

In addition to community service, sisterhood is also something that is very important to the sorority. The members made it a point to bond with each other. They held a pledge bash, homecoming picnic, retreat, formal and many other social events throughout the year.

"What I like about Gamma Sig is that it gives you the opportunity to meet a lot of people that you wouldn't meet on campus otherwise," senior history major Rebecca Kanter said. Junior journalism and mass communication major Anna Kaye Gilbreath agrees. "I've met a lot of really fun and interesting girls that I can relate to," Gilbreath said.

The many opportunities to serve the community are something that members of Gamma Sigma Sigma appreciate about their organization. "Gamma Sig has allowed me to expand my view of ways to serve," junior psychology major Megan Fitzpatrick said. The distinctive combination of sisterhood and service is something that draws many of its members to the group. "I decided to join because I was really looking for that bond of sisterhood and the opportunity to serve," said junior family studies major

April Lambiotte. "Gamma Sig has given me both of these things."

To its members, Gamma Sigma Sigma is much more than just an activity to be involved in during their years at Samford. "I'm now more inclined to realize all of the opportunities there are to serve," said Graves. "Because of Gamma Sig, I know I'll never stop serving."





# Habitat for Humanity: Building Lives

*By Destiny Soria*

*Photos: Valerie Macon*

*Spread: Austin Richardson*

The Samford University Habitat for Humanity Campus Chapter is an organization with a long name, a big heart and a solid purpose.

Also known as Samford Habitat, this chapter partners with Habitat for Humanity, a non-profit Christian housing ministry, to build and renovate homes for families in need. Chapter President Valerie Macon describes the mission of Samford Habitat as a mission to "raise awareness among Samford University students, faculty and other associates about the problems of substandard housing and poverty in the greater Birmingham area. We also seek to provide opportunities for action to help in the fight against substandard housing and homelessness, as directed by and in partnership with the larger Habitat organization."

To accomplish this goal, the Samford Habitat crew, comprised of three officers, depends on the help of individual and group volunteers. Scattered posters across campus bulletin boards depict a colorful Lego house and the appealing slogan, "Come build your own house." This year, Samford Habitat has graciously received help from numerous individuals as well as campus organizations such as Sigma Chi, Reformed University Fellowship, Gamma Sigma Sigma, the Pharmacy School, the Business Fraternity and the junior class of 2009.

On a typical Saturday, there is an average of 20 volunteers split into two shifts. Macon described the schedule as follows: "On a normal Saturday, we meet in Pitman circle at 7:15 a.m., drive out to the worksite, which is generally in downtown Birmingham, sign-in at the site and find the site manager. The site manager then delegates jobs to our volunteers, which can range anywhere from pulling weeds or painting to putting up siding or roofing. Around 11:30 a.m., we drive back to Samford and pick up our next group of volunteers at 12:15 p.m. and do it all over again."

While this doesn't sounds like a very typical way for a college student to spend his or her Saturday, Communications Coordinator Melanie Fox doesn't see Samford Habitat as all work and no play. "A great thing about Habitat is that you can have fun with your friends and meet new people, all while knowing that you are working for a good cause."

Even though building a house sounds like a task for professionals, volunteers need no prior experience—only a will to serve. As Fox explains, "A typical day at Habitat for Humanity is being able to be flexible and willingly do whatever it is that they need you to do, whether it be putting up siding, painting walls or hammering nails. Habitat is obviously a very hands-on type of community service."

This kind of "hands-on" community service definitely appeals to a wide range of people because of its immediately gratifying results. "At the end of the day you can stand back and see with your own eyes the results of the hard work you've done," said Fox.

This year, Samford Habitat helped with the construction and renovation of several homes in the greater Birmingham area. It kept true to its fight against substandard housing and homelessness, which are "morally, religiously, politically, socially and economically unacceptable," says Macon. Perhaps the best statement to show Samford Habitat's purpose was made by the founder of Habitat for Humanity International, Millard Fuller, who said, "The vision is not to build for a few lucky families. We are not 'Lottery for Humanity.' We are building for everybody. The goal of Habitat for Humanity is that everyone should have at least a simple, decent place to live." With the dedication of its officers and volunteers, the Samford Chapter of Habitat for Humanity is achieving just that.



# AFROTC: Learning to be a Leader

By Rachel Bennett

Photos: Courtesy of AFROTC

Spread: Austin Richardson

Military training, undergrad classes and community service are just a few of the things that make up the daily routine for cadets of AFROTC.

Samford's AFROTC, or Air Force Reserve Officer Training Corps, division attracts students from all over the Birmingham area who go to schools such as Montevallo, Miles College and the University of Alabama at Birmingham. They gather at Samford to take courses and learn valuable leadership skills that will help them achieve their goals in the military. Cadets from all walks of life and all majors make their way through the program to graduate as second lieutenants. But schoolwork is not the only thing AFROTC does.

Every year, the program hosts two huge bashes for its cadets, a casual 'combat dining in' in the fall and a formal 'combat dining out' in May. For the members, the 'dining in' was a chance to catch up with old friends and meet the new recruits for the coming year. While 'dining in' served as a friendly sit-down dinner, 'dining out' was anything but.

Bravo Flight Commander Jacob Meins, a junior, describes the event as "somewhere between a formal and a semiformal event for a fraternity or sorority." He said that the custom started sometime around World War II

as a way to recognize new officers. This year, the combat dining out was held in the Harvard Center and eight second lieutenants were commissioned or completed the program.

Other events that happen regularly each year are conferences and simulations. This year, the corps held a mass casualty simulation in an attempt to train cadets on how to react in crisis situations. Meins participated as a victim and said, "I looked like I had been in a really bad car wreck." The goal was for AFROTC students to react in a timely and appropriate manner to help the victims of the simulation.

Behind the scenes of AFROTC is the Arnold Air Society, a service fraternity for air force cadets. The society is responsible for almost all group service projects that AFROTC does throughout the year, which is a lot. This year,





the members of Arnold Air Society participated in Habitat for Humanity, held fundraisers, participated with UAB for Into the Streets, worked at soup kitchens and the Salvation Army and went with a group led by computer science professor Dr. Craig Kawell to Perry County to help fix computers in public schools. For Physical Fitness Officer Jordan Anderson, the trip to Perry County was his "personal favorite" and Communications Officer Jordan Gossett said that it was "nice knowing that we were helping them out."

AFROTC and Arnold Air Society were important in shaping the lives of their members. A lot of people do not know that once a cadet graduates from AFROTC, their training bases for the next few years are already assigned and most, if not all, of their school tuition is paid for. "If I didn't hear about AFROTC in high school, I don't know what I would be doing now," Meins said. "Probably freaking out."

But skills and discipline were equally, if not more, important in impacting the cadet's lives than the perks of being in the military. Alpha Flight Commander Sarah Beth Simms said, "Being in the Air Force definitely affected me; it taught me how to be a leader." Because of her experiences in AFROTC, she has decided to become a nurse. Anderson said he joined AFROTC because, "I have had a dream of being a pilot since I was two-years-old. It's something I have always really wanted to do."

AFROTC and its Arnold Air Society continue to be important to both Samford and the Birmingham community and will continue to do so for many years to come through service and discipline.

# Democrats Talk Politics

By Rachel Bennett

Illustration and Spread: Austin Richardson

“Continuing to Grow” seems to be the unofficial motto of Samford’s College Democrats who this year had higher active attendance than the larger College Republicans. Maybe this is because political platforms were shifting, or maybe it’s because more people were coming out of the Democratic closet. One thing is for certain, however, the College Democrats organization was a great way to get together and discuss important issues while having fun.

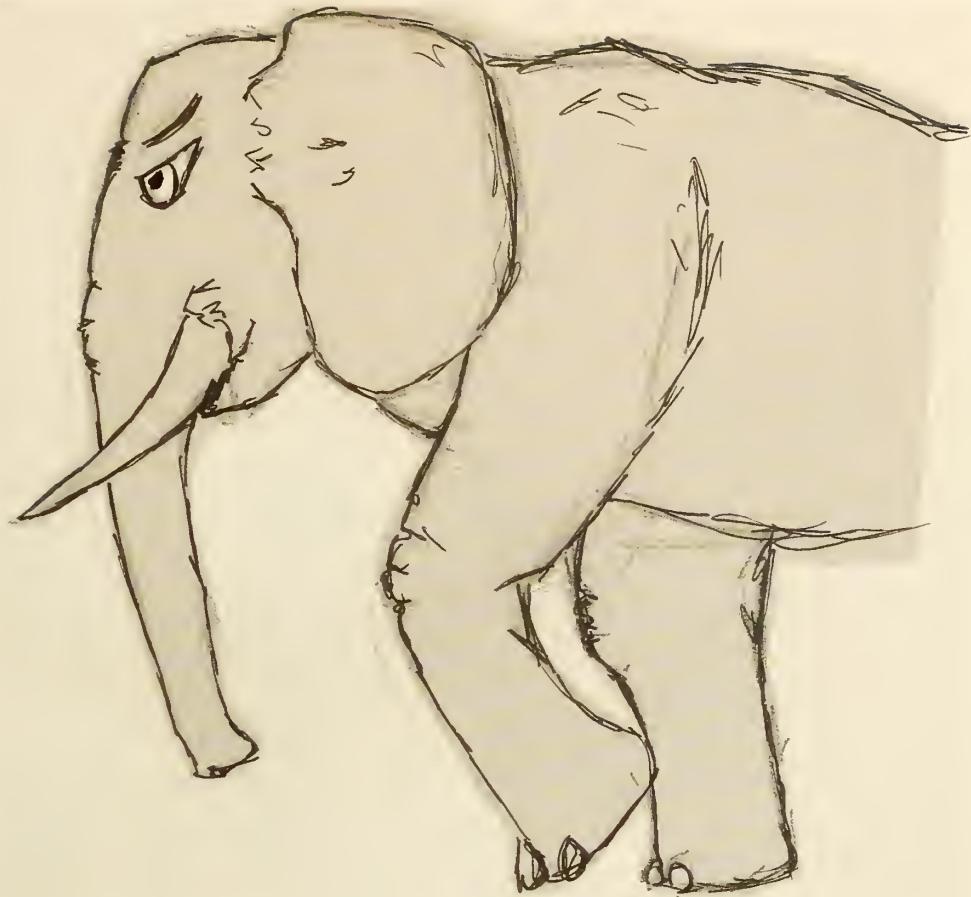
Samford’s Democrats met once a month at different local restaurants where members could relax and talk about political topics. These topics ranged anywhere from healthcare to immigration and were usually predetermined. The group decided not to endorse any candidate for president until the Democratic National Convention did so in June so that there would be no tension between members. Because of this, Samford’s Democrats did not actively help out as a group with any campaigning in Birmingham and stayed neutral.

To President Emily Holladay, the most important thing about the group was that people could come together and make connections with each other while discussing serious issues. “I like getting together with the group and feeling like I can say anything without being scorned,” said Holladay.

Despite a story published in *The Samford Crimson* and some common rumors, the Samford College Democrats have been around for a very long time. Holladay says her father remembers there being a College Democrat organization on campus before he entered Samford as a freshman in the 1970s.

This year, the group had about 40 members and almost all actively participated. Holladay is optimistic about the future of the group. “It was also very nice to have a group this year that wants to grow and become more of a presence on campus. We haven’t really had that in the past,” said Holladay. The College Democrats plan to become more involved in the Alabama chapter of College Democrats in the coming year.





# Samford Republicans Give Back

By Rachel Bennett

Illustration and Spread: Austin Richardson

The College Republicans have a long history here at Samford, and they continued it this year in the wake of an upcoming presidential election.

Claiming over 100 members this year, the College Republicans found themselves more active than in the recent past. The group held two meetings a month, with an average of 20 to 30 people attending each meeting. Sometimes they had prominent Republican Party members speak at their gatherings. Other times, it was to discuss volunteer work and normal group activities.

"This year is kind of us giving back," said President Lauren Howard, and the theme pervaded the group throughout the year. In January, they held a voter drive on campus to get more people registered and prepared to vote in the presidential primaries. Also, they plan to host an informational display of sorts in October once everyone is back in school to educate students on what each presidential candidate's platform is, whether Republican or Democrat.

In addition, the Samford Republicans did regular volunteer work and helped raise funds for the Alabama Republican Party. These funds went towards people running for local and state office. During the summer, members of the College Republicans were invited to the Red State Dinner, a big event where state Republicans all get together for an elegant meal and listen to a guest speaker. This year's speaker of choice was John McCain, former senator from Arizona.

Howard said that her favorite part of being involved with the Samford Republicans this year was the excitement of the members participating. "It's nice to see all the people getting involved in politics," said Howard.

# Fun, Friends, Travel and Debate

*By Callan Donoho*

*Spread: Austin Richardson*

There is no debate. The mock trial and debate teams were a great way for students to show off their speech skills against competing schools this year. Members had fun developing and perfecting their speeches and debates while they made friends and went to scrimmages, invitationals and tournaments around the south.

Though the two teams are separate, they share a lot in common. Many people are members of both teams and both provide excellent opportunities for members to improve their communication skills by debating issues with others.

Samford has had a mock trial team for about 10 years. Senior Lauren Wilson, co-captain of the mock trial team, said. "I would say that mock trial is the best way that an undergraduate can learn how the trial process works." The team consists of students who represent the different members present at a trial. Members serve in roles such as attorneys or witnesses for both the prosecution and the defense. The students play "roles" during their competitions, and the goal is to win the trial. There are lawyers and judges present judging the competitions.

Wilson said that those who play the role of attorney are members who usually have participated before. Witnesses, on the other hand, "are people who are just really good at acting." Theater majors are often witnesses. Mock trial also helps students become more familiar with how the court system works. Many political science majors and people interested in going to law school are part of the team. There is actually a class that pre-law students take where they participate in the trials.

The mock trial team usually starts having invitationals, which are practice for regionals in the fall. This year, they went to an invitational at Middle Tennessee State University. They also participated in scrimmages against local and regional schools. In late February, regionals were sponsored by the University of Alabama at Birmingham and Samford. This year, Keren McElvy won an "All Region Witness" award. The team's ultimate goal is to go to nationals. However, competition on a national level is very competitive and getting to nationals is extremely hard to do.

Along with the mock trial team, the debate team takes the art of speech and communication down a somewhat different path. Members debate one on one instead of in a trial setting to try to prove their point of view. Many political science majors along with pre-law majors get involved with the debate team.

Political science major Jayme Cloninger said, "I debate for the learning experience, because I know that I can apply everything as a means to a goal like law school or maybe being a politician one day." Debate team members learn how to accurately prove their point and debate in a successful and eloquent way. There is a nationally selected subject every year and each team debates on the chosen topic all year. This year's theme was Middle East policy.

The debate team attended 15 tournaments this year. Their season started at Georgia State and was followed by tournaments at Vanderbilt University, John Carroll University and the University of Florida. The team proudly won 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> speaker at the Florida tournament. Many different schools including Harvard University attended these events.

Anyone can join the debate team, but the participant's level of experience depends on what level he or she will debate. Samford's debate team ranges levels from novice to varsity and the team is more than willing to work with budding debaters.

The debate team has two main goals. First is to qualify for a national debate tournament, which debate team director Ryan Galloway said is the equivalent of "qualifying for a bowl game." Second, they want to have a good national ranking. This year, they were ranked 24<sup>th</sup> in the country, which means out of all the schools in America the Samford debate team is ranked in the top 30 schools in the nation.



# Big Changes for The Samford Crimson

By Rachel Bennett

Photos and Spread: Austin Richardson

"New faces but not so new places" was the unofficial motto of *The Samford Crimson* during 2007-2008. An almost completely new editorial staff and new technologies combined to create an atmosphere of change and serious thought for the paper's growth in the coming years.

This year of change and new ideas for the *Crimson* arose due to one main unusual fact; the fact that most of the previous year's staff mysteriously disappeared into the unknown void that lies beyond Samford's gates. They graduated. This strange occurrence offered opportunities for many new editorial staff members to get their hands on the *Crimson* to gain practical publishing experience as well as bounce new concepts off the blank paper before them.

"I've learned life lessons I'll carry with me forever," junior Editor-in-Chief Bennett Sumner said. A lot of "trial and error" went on this year but to Sumner, that's "the great thing about student publications." For her, "the newspaper has been a great intro into the real world." The staff took full advantage of the *Crimson* to make it the best that it could be while learning in the process.



Possibly the biggest new feature in the works this year were completely new layout designs. Five editors from the *Crimson* took a trip to Washington, D.C. in December to see what the professionals were up to. They looked at samples from college newspapers around the country, checked out new publishing technologies and listened to what professionals who work in such publications as *The Washington Post Herald* had to say. Not only did the editors come back with new points of view for the sometimes dated *Crimson*, but they came back closer as well. Sumner said the session was "really good bonding time."

Another milestone for the *Crimson* was more online capabilities. This year the *Crimson* was published in two ways, both online and in print. But that is not all. People who visited the *Crimson*'s website might also have noticed that tucked away within the site were additional stories that did not make it to print.

Furthermore, the sports section attempted to host an opinion sports blog on the site as well, but it faced some controversy from the administration. The decision to let Christopher Smith, a senior journalism major, link his sports blog to the *Crimson*'s site was still up in the air by mid-spring. This of course was disappointing to a lot of people which included Smith and Sports Editor Ben Hankins who was looking forward to the blog because the print version of the *Crimson* simply did not have enough room for much sports opinion.

For the Expressions section this year was also a time to try out new things and new ways of reporting. Expressions Co-editor Emily Leithauer, one of the few returning staff members from the previous year, said that this year "we've tried to do more personality profiles of people on-campus." For her it was important for students to know those around them. A completely new feature was sending reporters to different areas of Birmingham and just having them hang out the whole day. Then the writers would describe what they did in each area so that Samford students could get a better idea of the community around them.

*The Samford Crimson* covered some important and moving stories this year. One of the major stories that graced the *Crimson*'s pages this year included a moving story about a University of Alabama student named John Millhouse. Millhouse, who suffered from cerebral palsy, was huge fan of Coach Pat Sullivan and attended every practice and game he coached, even when Sullivan moved to Samford. For Coach Sullivan, Millhouse was a source of encouragement and a reason to keep coaching every day.

Another featured story this year followed the daily work



routines of Samford's campus safety. After publishing the findings in the *Crimson* and asking what would happen if Samford was ever faced with an emergency like the terrible shooting at West Virginia Tech, Safety Director Bobby Breed implemented new security plans in case of an emergency. New automated emergency text message and e-mail systems were installed on campus along with other emergency protocols that did not exist before the *Crimson's* story.

All in all, this year proved to be a training ground for many of the *Crimson's* new staff. For some, the lessons learned were positive, for others they were mixed. But one thing is certain; *The Samford Crimson* is as ever-changing as the faces behind the pages.

# Making a difference: One performance at a time

By Melissa McBride

Spread: Austin Richardson

The Gospel Choir knows how to bring the love of Christ to Samford. And they do it through song.

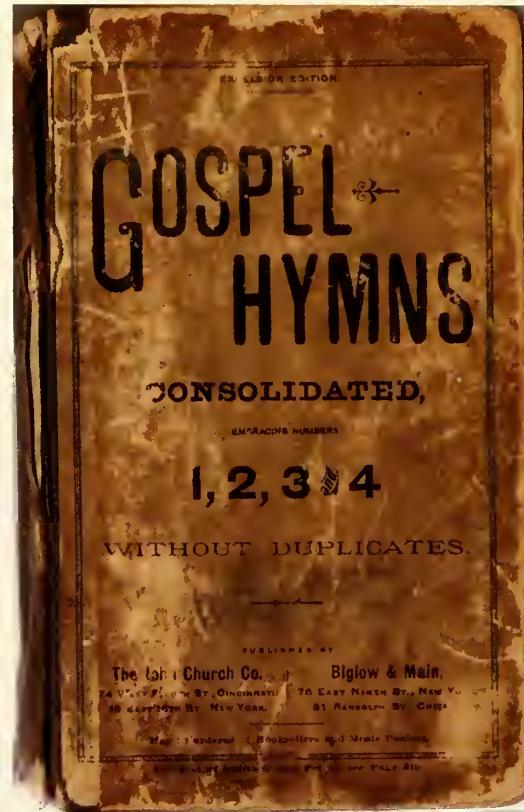
This year, the choir, led by President Ashley Flowers, gained close to 10 new members and lent its soulful spark to many campus events. During both fall and spring semesters, the choir sang at several events here at Samford, including a performance during Homecoming weekend and a concert held in December to celebrate the Christmas season. They also held a concert at the end of the spring semester to commemorate the end of the year.

Flowers brought a much more spiritual emphasis to the choir this year and decided that they should only sing biblically based songs. Along with a new song repertoire, the choir added a devotional at the beginning and a prayer at the end of each of its practices, which were held every weekday. These sessions helped the group prepare for their performances on campus, as well as their outreach projects.

The organization's outreach went beyond Samford students to include students all around Birmingham. One example can be found in the youth detention center. This center, found in downtown Birmingham, holds a few hundred teenagers and younger who are entertained two to three times a month by the Gospel Choir. After each performance, the choir stayed and talked with those staying at the center to form relationships and show God's love to them. At the end of fall semester, the choir even had a special Christmas performance followed by a Christmas party with the teens.

When asked about visiting the youth detention center, freshman and new member Allison Edmonson said, "After we performed, we would stay and just hang out with the kids. We got to hear all their different stories and really get to know them. It was so rewarding to just be able to listen to their stories, and it was really great to be able to throw them a party at Christmas." As another way of forming relationships with the teens, some members of the Gospel Choir began to go to the center every Wednesday to have Bible study.

Along with trips to the detention center, the Gospel Choir sang at different churches in the community when invited and participated in other various outreaches around Birmingham. With the Gospel Choir's hard work and dedication to spreading the love of Christ throughout our campus and our community, the spirit of Samford remains alive and well in this organization.



# A love of music brings people together

By Anna Pollock

Photo and Spread: Austin Richardson

For those who like to sing, University Chorale was the place to be.

The choir offered the opportunity to perform without the use of extraordinarily difficult music, so students who were not familiar with reading music or being in a choir felt comfortable.

University Chorale this year was made up of 45, non-auditioned Samford students. The music was spiritual for the most part and many of the songs incorporated a variety of instruments, such as the bagpipe or the harp. The choir also performed many selections accompanied by the organ.

The ensemble allowed students with a passion for singing to belong to a choir without the major responsibilities and commitments of other professional choirs at Samford. Members had the option of receiving a one hour credit for taking part in the Chorale. Since all music majors have to earn an ensemble credit each semester, University Chorale was a great opportunity to do something fun and get credit at the same time. Freshman member Molly Jones said, "University Chorale has given me the opportunity to keep singing and performing, because I enjoyed it so much in high school. It has, also, been a great way to meet new people and get involved in the Samford community."

Director Sharon Lawhon worked hard to maintain the high reputation of University Chorale. She emphasizes "transfer of knowledge" in which she expects the students to use what they have learned in one piece of music in other pieces as well. Dr. Lawhon is a master at giving specific instructions to help further the abilities of the choir. Her experience of hard work in directing the choir was clearly reflected in all events that University Chorale was a part of.

The group performed at a number of Samford events during the year. Many events consisted of leading the congregation in hymns at Convocation each week. The ensemble sang at Hanging of the Green during the holiday season and joined with the A Cappella Choir, orchestra and band to perform a Christmas concert which brought Christmas spirit to Samford.

During the spring semester, University Chorale held a Vesper service to reflect the historic tradition of daily prayer by offering hymns of Scripture. The event was held in Samford's Hodges Chapel. Hymns, such as "Amazing Grace" featuring pianist Herbert Williams, an a cappella piece "My Shepherd Will Supply My Need" and "When I Survey the Wondrous Cross" accompanied by violinist Christina Gonzalez, filled the chapel. The choir not only displayed their wide ranges of talent, but also put on a wonderful evening of gathering together to worship the Lord. University Chorale member Adrienne Brown finished the evening with a resounding solo to "My God Is So High." The service displayed the outstanding talent of University Chorale at Samford University as well as the values it holds.



# Unaccompanied

By Mary Nelle Hall

Photo and Spread: Austin Richardson

This year's A Cappella Choir certainly needed no accompaniment to put on a truly amazing show. The pure voices of its members produced a sound that was more beautiful than that of any musical instrument.

While most Samford students spent their spring break lying on the beach, the A Cappella Choir toured across the south, representing the university with their voices. The choir kicked off their tour in Huntsville at the Alabama All-State Choral Festival. From there, they continued the tour by traveling to Knoxville, Tennessee and Louisville, Kentucky.

On March 18, the choir had the privilege of performing at the Ryman Auditorium in Nashville, Tennessee. On the stage of the Ryman, the choir met up with Billy Horton, a banjo-playing Samford Alumni. Horton performed solo as well as joining in with the choir to perform a rendition of "Cindy," an American folk song. Horton also made a guest appearance at the choir's homecoming concert in Reid Chapel. He played a solo piece and shortly after, the "A Cappella Band" and members of the choir joined in singing and dancing, engaging the audience in their bluegrass hoedown.

Bluegrass was not the only style of music the A Cappella Choir perfected. Their repertoire also included more traditional hymns and spirituals. The choir sang every thing from "Signet dem Herr nein neues Lied" by Johann Bach to "Rockin' Jerusalem."

What's even more impressive about this choir is that it's not only comprised of music majors. Acceptance is based solely on competency demonstrated in an audition. Business management, international relations, religion, family studies, biology and political science majors are all represented within this diverse choir.

Timothy Banks, Professor of choral music and conducting, conducts this gifted group. He is only the fifth conductor of the choir since its founding in 1939. Banks is very pleased with the talent of the group and the progress they are making.

"The choir has had an unbroken tradition of excellence in choral music for all of these years, with national and international tours, recordings and media presentations that will soon include appearances on YouTube and iTunesU," said Banks.

The group finished recording three CDs that should be released in the summer of 2008. President Brittany Stillwell Krebs and Vice President Mary Catherine Stone also lead the 56-member choir.

Talent is not the only thing that makes this choir so unique. When talking to freshman Quincy Price about the three-state tour, he didn't immediately mention the music or the thrill of singing on the stage of the Ryman Auditorium, but rather the "sense of family" in the choir. He said while on the tour, he felt like he "grew friendships, opened up musically and most importantly, shared in Christian fellowship."

It was clear at the homecoming concert that this sense of family has continued from generation to generation. At the end of the show, the current members of the choir were joined by alumni. Mothers, daughters, friends and family crowded together on the risers to sing the final hymn. As they came together, it was evident that the Samford A Cappella Choir is a talented group with a rich history that is here to stay.



# Alpha Phi Omega: A fraternity not just for men

By Haley Aaron

Spread: Austin Richardson

Alpha Phi Omega breaks through the “Samford Bubble” to reach out to the community. From working to build houses with Habitat for Humanity to volunteering with groups such as Relay for Life and Hands on Birmingham, the fraternity’s goal was to make a difference.

Alpha Phi Omega, or APO, is a national service fraternity. Samford’s APO chapter was initially founded in 1941. Several current Samford professors and staff were involved in the organization as students, including English Professor Dr. Roderick Davis, Religion Professor Dr. James Barnette, Art Department Chair Dr. Lowell Vann, Geography Professor Chris Labosier and Technology Services Network Group Director Glenn Schneider. Samford trustee John C. Pittman was one of the founding members of the organization.

However, Samford’s APO chapter became co-ed for the first time this year. As a result, the organization has grown significantly larger. APO President and sophomore religion major Kris Roberts said membership has grown from 15 members to 40.

While most of APO’s activities support the Birmingham community, some service projects reach outside the city. This year, the group raised money to buy Christmas gifts for troops serving in Iraq. Members raised enough money to purchase a portable DVD player along with other gifts and much needed items such as phone cards. “This was a very worthwhile project as it gave back to the men and women who are serving our country away from home,” said APO treasurer and junior biology major Jordan Beard.

For many students involved in APO, the most rewarding part of participating in the group is seeing how their efforts help those in the community. For freshman psychology major Hannah Wilhoite, one of the best experiences was watching a home being built through Habitat for Humanity. “You can watch the progress over time of everyone’s hard work and can really get to know the people you are helping,” she said.

While APO is structured like most fraternities, the group serves primarily as a service organization, not a social group. “I joined because I was looking for another outlet to do service projects,” Roberts said. “I was already involved with my fraternity and a few other groups, but APO put service as their top priority, and I really appreciated and respected that.”

By reaching out to the community, APO members also receive valuable lessons. “Members in Alpha Phi Omega learn valuable leadership skills and teamwork skills, and through our service, we give back to the campus, community and nation,” Beard said.

Membership in the group is open to any Samford student who wishes to serve. “APO can help anyone at Samford find what they are best at while also helping others,” Wilhoite said. “It is a great way to help serve the community and get involved on campus.”

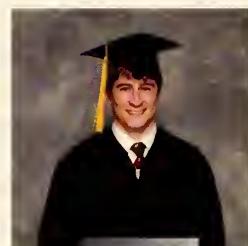
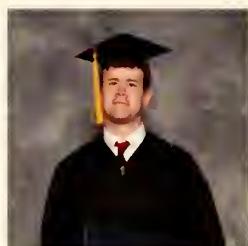


# Begin





# December Graduates



Meredith Henry, Leila Roberson, Renard Blackmon, Dell Yarbrough, Katharine Baird, Jonathan Beverly, Andrew Boyd, Charles Bradford, David Brunson, Shelly Busby, Hiram Centeno, Andrea Clemons, Michael Deen, Amy Delozier, Taylor Dorner, Alicia Ezell, Ke Fang, David Fisher, Justin Gambrell, Andrew Garnett, Lindsay Greenwalt, Jarred Griffin, Calvin Hodge, Stewart Johnson, Kyle Jones, Jessica Lee, Graham Lemmon, Celeste Leone, Lane Lofton, Jonathan McCullough.



Anthony Myers, Sara Neyman, Whitney Osteen, Laura Pearson, Leo Randall, Justin Ray, Robert Stanfield, Hannah Tillman, Emily Jane Vernon, Geoffrey Walker, Cara Dennis, Julie Yonts, Fredrick Young, Robyn Debenedet, Benjamin Dennis, Micahel Dove, Caitlin Fuller, Jessica George, Amy Goodlin, Christine Halliday, Hugh Head, Susan Johnson, Jason Martin, Sarah Mauldin, Brenna McGuffey, Sarah Murray, Lauren Schmidt, Meghan Shannon, Kyle Sims, Karen Wilson.



Katie Aldridge, Christina Bombola, Benjamin Branscomb, Keith Davis, Joseph Edens, Adam Hancock, Giovanni Hernandez, Valerie Higgins, Peyton Huston, Eli Martorana, Matthew McDonald, Chase McTorry, Justin Mize, Garrett Rice, Shelley Stantley, Lindsey Stryker, Lisa Taylor, Jadwiga Wartak, Wanda Dimon, Estella Riggs, Jennifer Baker, Sandra Boyken, Richard Dvell, Alyisia Housey, Elizabeth McCullough, Dan Russell, Jennifer Cochran, Jessie Madison, Sarah Carter, Lauren Landrum.



Molly Michaud, Sarah Moorad, Holly Morgan, Roderick Norman, Deborah Norris, Elizabeth Pearse, Amber Ridley, Amy Searle, Sarah-Grace Self, Lindsey Walden, Ashley Watt, Erika Ellis, Lindsay Eubank, Ashley Fowler, Emily Fridrichsen, Amy Lauren Gilbert, Virginia Henry, Mallory Kline, Amanda Livingston, Dustin McNew, Jacqueline Mitchell, Samantha Norrell, Julianne Posey, Jeremy Sandefur, Monique Therrien, Catherine Wilkins, Freddie Williams, Emily Alsup, Anyet Belyeu, Katherine Bryan



Laura Collins, Ingrid Devaughn, Alicia Dieterich, Bridgett Donaldson, Amanda Draper, Bonnie Gay, Jessica Hartness, Katherine Herring, Amanda Howes, Katherine Kent, Charles King, Jill Lambert, Alexandra Mahrt, Natalie McCurdy, Stuart Misner, Christopher Offord, Amanda Parker, Crystal Rogers, Brooke Shoemaker, Meaghann Smith, Quinita Strickland, Kelley Vincent, Adam Moxley, Rachel Holland, James Douglas, Ivey Edwards, Matthew Harrison, Patrick Raney, Melanie Ervin, Clifford Hill.



James Moody, Andrew Waits, Craig Cochran, Jonathan Grammer, Kevin Hardee, Ryan Kelly, Kimberly Seals, Anita Slater, Carla Thomas, Joshua Thomas, Cokiesha Bailey, Nashaunna Brumfield, Felecia Clements, Richard Collins, Brian Cosby, Joseph Dentici III, James Dewey, Patricia Frazier, Brian Fulton, Jermaine Gadson, Charles Giffen, Meredith May, Russel McCrory, Stanford Mwasongwe, Waymon Oliver, Nathan Parker, John Patrick, Joshua Posey, Joshua Price, Timothy Robinson.



Ronald Sterling, Stephen Todd, Eric Enable, Michael Vreeland, Ruth Vreeland, Kelley Brown, James Copeland, Laura Faulkner, Shekinah Lampkin, Jennifer Rash, Janelle Ayres-Adams, Janet Benson, Jason Black, Janicya Feggins, Anna Lincoln, Wendy Payne Mann, Shannon St. John, Lynn Vines, Kristy Windham, Shawn Sears, Amanda Warren, Laaqueafrece Warren, Angela Bedgood, Donna Brumlow, Jennifer Cardwell, Kara Chism, Sheryl Coleman, Hedy Davis, Phyllis Faust, Selena Florence.



Melanie Glover, Melissa Gulledge, Jennifer Hogan, Aaron Jones, Shannon Kirby, Heather Mays, Kathy Murray, Belinda Patterson, Tim Stull, Lon Cullen, Balema Laba, Jerry Light, James Rumph, Aubrey Smith, Mary Duke, Barbara Martin, Lydia Patrick, Sakema Porterfield, Sheila Goebel, William Garrison, Jonathan Friery, Jay Greene.

New Master of Pharmacy,  
Brock School of Business and  
Ida V. Moffett School of Nursing Graduates



Aaron Akins, Kathryn Allen, Bradley Alsup, Robyn Armstrong, Laura Atkinson, Diana Baker, Timothy Barnett, Christie Battle, Jessica Black, Kelly Boarman, Carrie Boles, Brook Bowden, Kristi Bowden, Amy Boyd, Benjamin Boyd, Lindsey Boyett, Michele Bryant, Emily Burns, Emily Burns, Mary Bushong, China Collins, Brandi Carroll-Clark, Melissa Caudill, Amanda Chester, Audra Clifton, Candice Coleman, Jason Colquitt, Sara Brammer, Veronica Coshatt, Julie Daugherty.



Logan Davis, Deanna Dawson, Amrita Desai, Michael DeSerio, Pamila Dycus, Katie Dyer, Kari Edwards, Alyson Ellis, Megan Fischer, Tracy Frame, Jim Gaither, Warren Gardner, Katie Gibson, Daisy Griffin, Angela Hackett, Martin Hahn, Christopher Hamilton, Josh Hardin, Susan Hays, Rebecca Hershman, Holly Holladay, Eric Holmes, Morgan Howard, Lynsey Jones, William Jones, Rachel Keener, Jeffery Joch, Jessica Lamb, Matthew Leach, Andrew Lindsey.



Christy Longo, Zack Mack, Brandon Marshall, Kali Mathis, Stephanie Matthews, Scott Maurer, Kristin McDonald, Martha McDonald, Heather McElligott, Patrick McFerrin, Alison McGriff, Dustin McKinney, Alicia McKnight, Daniel Parkins, Megha Patel, Nicole Peacock, Ashley Peterson, Adam Pike, Ashley Pittman, Ebony Pollard, Jermey Price, Jessica Read, Amy Reynolds, Elliot Richardson, Cole Sandlin, Laney Savage, Lauren Scott, Heather Searcy, Elizabeth Shaffield, Blake Shoemaker.



Autumn Smith, Cora Smith, Justin Smith, Rebecca Smith, Raewyn Snodderly, Johnathon Sorter, Amanda Stimmel, Nicholas Sullivan, Erin Sutphen, Cassie Taylor, Paul Thompson, Mitzi Trosper, Ashley Trull, Lauren Vinson, Xuan Vo, Samuel Wakefield, Whitney White, Brenna Wilson, Trae Winkler, Hilary Smith, Daphne Anderson, Taylor Anderson, Jessica Babin, Jasmine Bolden, Josh Bordas, Daniel Bowles, Britney Boyd, Samuel Boyers.



Eric Brown, Paul Brown, Benjamin Buchanan, Jonathan Bunio, Matt Butler, Erin Camp, Alison Carter, Melissa Caudill, Daniel Cheek, Nora Christopher, Chadwick Cockrum, Christian Corts, Zachary Dark, Hannah Davis, Jarret Davis, Emily Deaux, Carol Doby, Thomas Donaldson, Lauren Evans, Brent Fielder, Jonathan Frazier, Emily Goette, Greg Granlund, Henry Bryan Grant, Chad Graves, Cameron Grogan, Hollie Guffey, James Gunter, John Hall, Michael Hardin.



Bryan Hassel, Clarke Hoelscher, Anglea Hook, Samuel Huffman, Gerald Hughes, James Kaal, William Kirtland, Jordan Lee, Colleen Leonard, Carson Lorentz, Ashley Madison, Robert Matteson, Gavin Mayo, Ryan McIntire, William McNeese, Joe Ross Merritt, Annie Murphree, Brad Parker, Lydia Parker, Daniel Peavy, Travis Peterson, John Post, Hunter Pugh, Austin Ray, Brittany Register, James Richardson, Romney Rogers, Sean Rogers, John Selph, Evan Smith.



Heather Steinberger, Matt Stephens, Dan Strickland, Jacqueline Taylor, Ross Thaxton, Jason Thomas, Taryn Towns, Austin Walker, Brydee Warner, Ian Williams, Hunter Yarbrough, Carrie Green, James Holmes, Lauren Horner, Latreyana Kidd, Jon Ogletree, Patrick Adams, Paul Allen, Ray Wesley Allen, Bhavini Amin, Jennifer Carter, Marvin Cleage, William Cone, Gregory Frazier, Ruth Lettieri, Herriet Minor, Lasundra Murphy, Mike O'Brien, Ian Owens, Stephen Owens.



Shehnaz Parpia, Jerald Reynolds, John Stewart, Erik Thimaras, Bridgette Whittemore, Elizabeth Baker, Krystal Benton, Lisa Blewer, Elizabeth Broome, Anna Lauren Brown, Janelle Brown, Jordan Brush, Andrea Bunger, Elizabeth Bush, Heather Byrod, Caroline Davis, John Derrick, Amanda Dinkelacker, Laura Durchsprung, Mary Ezell, Michael Freeman, Amy Graves, Brittany Gray, Rebecca Harmon, Abby Hebert, Whitney Jackson, Jessica Johnson, Mary Michael Joiner.



Tara Keith, Tara Kilgoyne, Julie Lee, Sarah Mallanik, Meredith McCurrie, Kristen McGriff, Annie Musgrave, Mary Nunnally, Rachel Saucer, Whitney Sharp, Jamie Leigh Simpson, Sarabeth Sims, Leah Smith, Anna Smitherman, Katharine Snyder, Lindsey Stone, Kristin Talbert, Meredith Wells, Alexandra Whyte, Rebecca Wright, Tommie Bass, Andrea Collins, Brandi Crawford, Cumbee Page, Adrienne Curry, Nicole Davis, Leon Glenn, Cynthia Garrett, Katherine Harrison, John Lundeen.



Debra Miller, Chris Moore, Shelley Moore, Carol Richmond-Stephens, Lona Stone, Susan Stovall, Lindsey Todd, Martha Ward, Regina Yarbrough.

## School of the Arts, Howard College of Arts and Sciences, Orlean Bullard Beeson School of Education and Professional Studies Graduates



Rob Howell, Emily Mullins, Meryl Thomson, Lauren Wilson, Amanda Jones, Daniel Masters, Erin Ojard, Jalona Chambers, Sasha Gennaro, Julia Haynes, Lawanda Morris, Nicholas Agnello, Callie Aldridge, Britney Almaguer, Julie Amann.



Sarah Azinger, Kathryn Barnes, Brooke Barrientos, Erin Basinger, Christin Bates, Caroline Bell, Erika Berg, Stephen Black, James Blackburn, Britney Blalock, Elisabeth Bradley, Zachary Brooks, Kristin Burson, Meliah Capers, Josie Capuano, Bethany Carroll, Erin Carroll, Jessica Casto, Christina Cesler, John Chambliss, Kaley Childs, Aidan Clifford, Michael Cody, Lyndsay Cogdill, David Coleman, Katherine Conway, Rebekah Corley, Shannon Corman, Kelley Cotton, Aaron Davis.



Martha Donze, Lauren Doss, Rebecca Ellenberger, Andrew Farrell, Lindsey Ferguson, Stephen Freer, John Gargis, John Givens, Suzanne Gottard, Rebecca Graham, Katherine Gronewald, Haley Gunter, Brittany Heathcock, Hunter Hill, Emily Holaday, Darling Aragon, Anna Jackson, Heather Johnson, Peyton Jones, Tessa King, Holly Kirtley, Rachael Lamb, James LaSater, Jana Lassiter, Brian Lee, Jonathan Loudermilk, Heather Mackey, Meredith Macon, Oliver Mallory, Elizabeth Martin.



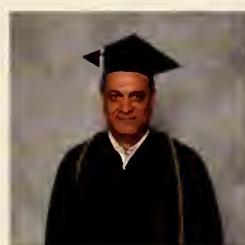
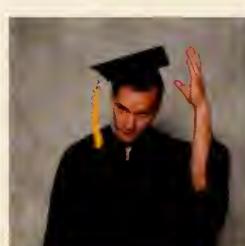
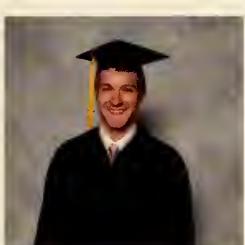
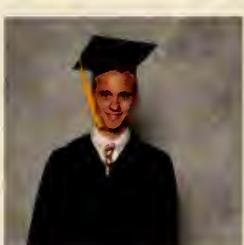
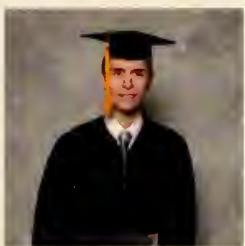
Maeci Martin, Hannah McCurdy, Chelsea McDonald, Danielle McDonald, Keren McElby, Christy McIntosh, Jacob Meins, Caudill Miller, Nadia Mitchell, Robert Moore, Jaason Morales, Margaret Morris, Christina Moslet, Benjamin Mosteller, Lisa Munday, Kyle Mykitta, Horace Nix, Adam Oliver, Jilliam Payne, Devin Phillips, Heather Powell, Sallianne Prothro, Catherine Reisenwitz, Josph Rhea, Meg Rich, Rachel Richardson, Stephanie Richter, Kaite Riegler, Katie Robertson, Josh Rutledge.



Mary Segrest, Candice Selph, Alicia Smith, Julia Smith, Alyson Snow, Lauren Steele, Tiffany Stubbs, Sandra Swann, Amber Tatum, JAMES Taylor, Lisa Taylor, Sarah Turner, Katie Uptain, Chelsey Vague, Candace Venz, Luke Walker, Courtner Warr, Holly Watson, Andrew Wells, Chrissy Wells, Lauren Welty, Brian Willett, Brooke Williams, Caroline Williams, Susam Williams, Jenna Wilson, Maegan Wilson, Lindsay Wise, Emily Woodard, Abbey Woodruff.



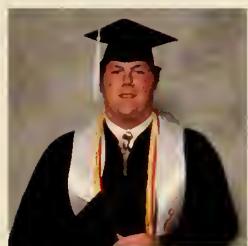
Rebecca Wright, Elissa Young, Todd Almon, Amy Bandy, Jordan Beard, Robin Bishop, Christopher Carlson, Jason Clemons, Charles Covey, Bethany Davis, Carter Edwards, David Field, Blake Gilbert, David Gilmore, Christopher Gore, Kendall Henry, Sean Hill, Joanna Holloway, John Houston, John Irons, Charlie Juarez, Alex Karaman, Robert Lane, Hjansa Lassiter, John Lax, Allison Lott, Kimberly McDaniel, Jeslyn Metcalf, Sharon Moore, Betsy Nunez.



Kristen O'Dillon, Justin Palmore, Nicholas Panella, Devon Paris, Stacey Phillips, Ashley Polinski, Michael Pruitt, Brittany Raymond, Theodore Reece, Meaghan Roche, Sam Rocke, Isaiah Same, Steven Shirley, Nathan Stenstrom, Mary Stone, Jennifer Thomas, Kelly Towne, Jonathan Walker, Will Ward, Tiffany Wilson, Shirley Marks, Christa Tarrance, Becky Campbell, Pamela Moore, Amber Wade, Joseph Alaimo, Trisha Carlisle, John Chatta, Siyavash Kaynezhad, Derek Merriman.



Stephanie Mitchell, Melissa Paddock, Kelly Parker, Blake Altrdo, Amy Almand, Lauren Bidez, Jennifer Blankenship, Megan Brantley, Margaret Brown, Meredith Campbell, Brian Castello, Lisa Champion, Allison Duncan, Sarah Durnya, Megan Folsom, Christina Forsyth, Dana Gordon, Ashley Gorman, Charlie Hall, Kathryn Harrell, Bethany Harrison, Sarah Haslett, Elysia Helton, Kerra Killingsworth, Haley LeCroy, John Morgan, Ashley Skinner, Jamilyn Smith, Erin Sutton, Stephen Tennin.



Maureen Tombrella, Elizabeth Turner, Laura Vandal, Heather Wiggins, Brittney Ballentine, Lindsey Bamberg, Heather Birdsell, Rebecca Bohler, Kristen Chafin, Tarlie David, Calli Davis, Kathryn Decker, Jessica Doster, Ciara Floyd, Julie Foust, Mary Gunter, Lauren Saekle, Shanna Killebrew, Sarah Knoedler, Nicole Kroko, Stephen McBride, Erin Parker, Rachel Renshaw, Rachel Sharpe, Sarah Smith, Shelly Smith, Amy Voorhies, John Wheeler, Emily Whitworth, Athereh Yacoub.



Katie Aldridge, Rebecca Allman, Jeremy Andrews, Abby Bailey, Jennifer Burgess, Marilee Chambers, Kristin Chapman, Kara Cook, Jonathan Davis, Kathryn Deeter, John Mark Edwards, Sunny Elliott, Sara Fuller, Kelly Hicks, Caroline Janas, Holly Jaye, Stacey Javanvich, Rachel Kline, britta Lee, Amy Noel, Lauren Pitcher, Miranda Riley, Abigail Schnitzler, Kate Stone, Kristen Stonum, Leigh Sullivan, Amanda Vaughn, Kathryn Weaver, Sarah Bamberg, Robert Camp.



Barbara Cline, John Cooley, Matthew Godfrey, Lesli Johnson, Kelly Knowlton, Paul Lance, Meagan McCollum, Brad Roller, Natalie Saxon, Robert Smith, Preston Sullivan, Clarke Tucker, Katherine Upchurch, John Andrew Wesley, Maria Williams, Jamie Allen, Samantha Chambers, Thomas Deal, Emily Fincher, Britta Lindborg, Lindsey Murphy, Christina Myers, Emily Snider, Chris Trotman, Danile Banke, Emily Clayton, Brittany Krebs, Robert Pendegraft, Elizabeth Rice, Tracy Edmunds.



Dane Hopkins, Amanda Stone, Deborah Arnold, Betsy Bates, Katherine Broome, Carrie Carter, Kimberlee McConnell, Donna Norris, Robyn Skalac, Elizabeth Watson, Anna White, Jonathan Rodgers, Amy Willoughby, Perry Riddle, Katherine Lyons Bester, Dana Ballou, Eddie Britton, Kay Cooper, James Ervin, Mary Howard, Wendy Kenorick, Kevin Maddox, Daniel Phillips, Perry Phillips, Nita Thompson.

# 2008 Senior Survey Continued

**How many convos did you save until your senior year?**

- About 20
- Zero
- All of 'em

**What's the biggest prank you've pulled during the past four years?**

- Kidnapping my friend and making him go through the movie SAW.
- Oh, I can't talk about that one!
- Drinking an alcoholic beverage during class.

**What was your oddest Caf moment?**

- Talking to a friend about his love for Phil Collins.
- I stood up on a table and sang a Backstreet Boys' song out loud.
- Eating Shepard's pie – ewww!

**What is something about Samford that an outsider would never understand?**

- There's no casual dating, but somehow everyone gets married.
- Perhaps convo or visitation.
- Step Sing

**What's the most overused phrase at Samford?**

- “Engaged yet?”
- “The Bubble.”
- “Dude, that's awesome!”

**What is your advice as a graduating senior for underclassmen?**

- Don't be afraid to explore outside “the bubble.”
- Get involved in many different organizations.
- Don't stomp it out with your boots.

**What is the most important characteristic of a good roommate?**

- Ability to compromise.
- Chill, laid back.
- Cooking abilities.

**What is the best advice you've received while attending Samford?**

- Enjoy every minute.
- “This too shall pass...”
- Go to convo.

**What was your favorite class and/or professor at Samford?**

- Fiction and Film
- Spanish with Sr. Moore
- Dr. Barnette for BP

**Whom do you wish you had gotten to know better in the past four years?**

- Some of my professors.
- That guy I had a crush on all four years!
- Lots of people in my graduating class.

# 2008 Senior Survey Continued

**What song best describes your freshman year?**

- “Wake Up” by Rage Against the Machine
- Anything by New Found Glory
- “Rockaway” – probably listened to it 1,000 times.

**What song best describes your senior year?**

- “Umbrella” by Rhianna
- “Single Again...back on the prowl” by Trina.
- “Love is a Battle Field”

**If there is one thing you could change about Samford, what would it be?**

- Tuition
- Convo requirements
- Nothing!

**What is one question about Samford you always find yourself asking but never have figured out the answer?**

- Is grass more important than education?
- What's the purpose of censoring MTV?
- Where does all of the money go that Campus Safety collects from tickets?

**How have you changed since freshman year?**

- More accepting of people different from me.
- More independent.
- Have grown mentally and spiritually.

**In 20 years, what do you think you will miss most about Samford?**

- My friends.
- Walking across campus in the spring.
- My parent's money.

**Describe your Samford experience in one word.**

- Fast
- Busy
- Unforgettable







 Taylor